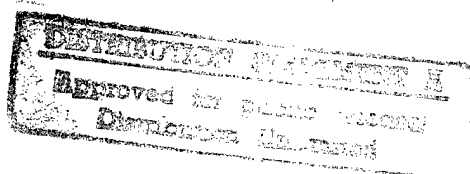


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OECS DISCLOSES PLANS FOR OFFSHORE OIL, GAS EXPLORATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 18

[Text]

THE waters between Barbados, Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago are to be explored for oil and gas by a Canadian firm.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) has agreed to negotiate with the Canadian company for the conduct of joint off-shore seismic surveys but it is understood the company prefers to deal with each state individually.

Under the terms of the Regional Energy Action Plan adopted at the Caricom Summit, Energy Ministers noted that the existence of commercially recoverable deposits of petroleum had been proven for Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago but the hydro-carbon bearing potential of the region was not fully evaluated.

The OECS is undertaking to have exploratory work done in the waters between Grenada, Barbados and Tobago. The work will be confined to areas with proven resources.

When the matter was discussed in caucus at the Summit, Energy Ministers noted that the Trinidad and Tobago Government had decided to extend its oil facility and had undertaken to decide on size, duration and terms and conditions of the extended facility.

It was suggested that in its review of the facility, the Trinidad and Tobago Government should consider retaining the programme loan nature of the facility. The extended facility could act as a marketing mechanism to enhance product off-take from Trinidad and Tobago.

Under the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility suspended last April after Guyana piled up a debt of US \$97 million (TT \$232m), the Summit discussed the possibility of an oil trade-off with Guyana.

Overall, Trinidad and Tobago is watching the size of the facility which will encourage an increased volume of purchases of petroleum products including fuel oil from its Trintoc refinery.

CSO: 3298/790

CARIBBEAN'S REGIONAL ENERGY ACTION PLAN IN GEAR

Initial Objectives

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 18

[Text] The Regional Energy Action Plan (REAP) is to be put into gear immediately with support from regional and external resources.

The plan, which will be in operation parallel to the San Jose agreement, offers Jamaica, Barbados and Antigua, Caricom countries with small refineries, crude from Trinidad and Tobago as a first resort in excess of supplies from their traditional sources.

Jamaica and Barbados get crude from Venezuela for refining and Antigua has an application to Mexico to get supplies for its 20,000 barrels a day throughput refinery under the San Jose agreement.

The Mexico/Venezuela oil pact in which 160,000 barrels of crude are delivered to Central American and Caribbean countries under soft loan facility, comes up for review next month.

Trinidad-Tobago, the only oil producer in Caricom, has retained its position under REAP to be a supplier of first resort for petroleum products to Guyana.

The action plan, endorsed at last week's Caricom Summit, covers the substantive areas of petroleum supply, marketing and development, energy demand conservation and the development of new and renewable sources of energy as an alternative to petroleum.

The immediate objective of REAP is to alleviate within the shortest possible time, the adverse impact of the energy crisis on the Caribbean economies, while laying the basis for more coordinated and rational development of the energy resources in the region.

The long-term objective, however, is for more coordinated and rational development of the energy resources of the region thereby permitting more steady and predictable growth in the economies and in the exploitation of resources.

Transportation Services Study

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Ed Wynn Brant: "Trintoc Involved in REAP Mission"]

[Text] The national oil companies of Trinidad-Tobago (Trintoc) and Jamaica (Petrojam) are to conduct a feasibility survey on transportation services for petroleum projects and crude petroleum movements in the region.

The study is one of the projects setting in train the much touted Regional Energy Action Plan (REAP) which was discussed in caucus at the Caricom Heads of Government conference in Port of Spain yesterday.

REAP is to cost an estimated US\$16 million (TT\$38.4m) and will be implemented by the Caricom Development Bank (CDB), the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Secretariat and other institutions and the Caricom Secretariat which will not be involved directly in the setting up of the body.

The transportation study embraces scheduling of petroleum, fuel oil, clean product and LPG tankers to minimise overall costs of all importers.

It is also to look at inventory levels to facilitate the movement of tankers in the region.

With the approval of the Caricom Summit, the transportation study report should be completed within six months.

New and renewable sources of energy (NRSE) are to be developed under REAP but with the exception of Trinidad and Tobago each member State will determine its own sources.

Taking the largest slice of the budget is a revolving fund for financing the foreign exchange component for retro-fitting projects in member States other than Trinidad and Jamaica.

Wind-generated electricity and resources assessment (except Trinidad and Tobago) and preinvestment projects for preparation activities for two sites in countries with economic potential will get a grant of US \$3.4 million (TT\$8.16m). Some funds have already been mobilised in that direction.

Other projects in REAP include exploitation of geothermal energy, biodigestors, charcoal and wood survey, small and medium hydropower, bagasse and cellulosic waste.

CSO: 3298/790

ENEE, VENEZUELAN CONSORTIUM SIGN POWER PROJECT CONTRACT

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jul 83 p 5

/Article by Jose Danilo Izaguirre/

/Text/ Tegucigalpa--A contract for 71,115,122.22 lempiras was signed yesterday by Herman Aparicio, manager of the National Enterprise for Electric Power (ENEE), and the Venezuelan consortium SVECA-VILNELERr-SADE (SVS) for the expansion of the El Cajon Hydroelectric Project.

The multimillion contract will provide for the construction of Tract VII, eight transmission lines, which comprises the building of the towers and the installation of the conductors with their respective insulators and fittings for the simple-circuit 230-kW lines of the El Cajon-El Negrito-El Progreso and the Santa Rita-El Progreso routes, and another double-circuit line for the El Cajon-Lago de Yojoa-Suyapa route.

When consulted, ENEE Manager Herman Aparicio said that the ambitious project is intended to fulfill the needs and programs that the organization foresees for the rural and urban areas of the country in view of the growth of the population.

The official said that the El Cajon Hydroelectric Project is not a "white elephant" despite the fact that it is limited by the installed generation capacity, hence the country will have to keep building works of the same size or larger seeing that the population is growing rapidly and requires better electric-power service with every passing day.

He stated that the date when the energy produced by El Cajon will reach its peak output depends on the country's economy, but it is estimated that the project will have sufficient capacity to take care of the interconnection needs from 1985 to 1992, given the growth of the population.

In the opinion of Aparicio, the expansion of the project does not signify that that the public will benefit from the cost of the service, but an improvement is being sought for the sake of the user, who constantly asks for it, despite the fact that the demands are excessive^{/?/} seeing that the operation of the utility depends on the payments obtained from the service.

He remarked that the loan to build the lines of the project will be repaid with the revenues of the enterprise, and that it is very favorable as it was granted at a low interest rate.

BRIEFS

ENERGY POLICY NEEDED--The Engineers Association of Honduras delivered to Oswaldo Ramos Soto, rector of the National Autonomous University of Honduras (UNAH), a document that underscores the national energy situation in order that the people be made aware of the efficient use of energy at the higher educational level. The study made by the Engineers Association offers conclusions and recommendations concerning the real gravity of the energy crisis at the national level, and it has been delivered also to the government agencies having anything to do with the problem. The energy problem of this country was discussed in a congress attended by international organizations, Central American research centers, regional universities and other private research institutions. The most important conclusion of the congress in question is that the Engineers Association has noted the need in Honduras for the central government to have a definite policy to coordinate all activities intended to manage national energy matters. "It is necessary to set up a definite and coherent policy, that is, a central agency that is adequately defined and organized, with decisionmaking power, whose purpose would be to formulate, evaluate and control the energy policy of Honduras, which should be in agreement with the national development policy," the document points out. The study establishes the need "to make the whole population aware of the seriousness of the energy problem and the deficient use of energy with the help of all the educational institutions of the state, especially those of higher learning, which should promote the research of technologies to replace the consumption of energy derived from hydrocarbons for such others as solar, ecological, hydroelectric and geothermal energies in order to reduce the petroleum tab, which constitutes the greatest drain on the country's foreign exchange." /Text/ /Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 11 Jul 83 p 39/ 8414

CSO: 3248/1093

MANNING STRESSES CONSERVATION AT NATIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] "The decade of the eighties and the changing world energy scene indicate that Trinidad and Tobago must reorient its programmes to meet the new situations that arise, not the least of which will be the clear need to improve on the use of our energy resources so as to more efficiently generate energy and more efficiently use that energy."

So said Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, when he opened the first-ever National Energy Conference, organised by the Trinidad and Tobago National Committee of the World Energy Conference at the Farrell House Hotel, Claxton Bay, yesterday.

Theme of the two-day conference, "Trinidad and Tobago in the World of Energy," The conference ends today.

Mr Manning told the more than 100 participants that "the coming years clearly require us in this thrust to ensure the proper establishment of our priorities in terms of providing the maximum benefit to the nation for minimum output and in this context it is clear that the minimum output must take into consideration financial and energy outlays as well as manpower.

Foreign Exchange

"The need to prioritise, therefore, clearly requires an assessment of the understanding of the resource base of the country for all energy forms. It necessitates an assessment of the manpower and technical capability within the country as well as that which is available externally.

"It further requires some quantification of the cost to develop and utilise these resources and perhaps most importantly, it also requires the rational use of these resources in the most cost-effective manner promoting the multi-faceted Government policies that are deemed of prime importance."

The Minister said that a "cursory examination of these policies would seem to indicate that we must of course continue to seek to generate revenue and foreign exchange earnings. Employment opportunities and technical training must also be high on that list and the broad-based provision of a higher

standard of living for as many citizens as possible must be surely always an over-riding priority of any government.

"It is clear, therefore, that one of the key areas for attack at a conference such as this must be the promotion of efficiency and the reduction of waste, be it at the production end or in consumption."

Mr Manning was introduced by Dr. Lenny Saith, Chairman of the National Energy Committee.

CSO: 3298/792

GOVERNMENT CUTS PETROLEUM TAX ; COMPANIES TO INCREASE ACTIVITIES

Details of Decision

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Government has decided to reduce the Supplemental Petroleum Tax (SPT) and oil companies operating in this country have made commitments to increase their level of activity.

Decision to lower the tax from 35 per cent to 15 per cent for land operations retroactive to January 1 this year, follows months of discussions and negotiations involving Ministers and officials of government and representatives of the oil companies in a situation of declining oil prices, retrenchment and uncertainty of operations and employment.

Details of Cabinet's decisions were given at a Press conference yesterday by Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives who chaired the Ministerial Committee appointed by Cabinet to deal with the issue. The other members of the team--Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, Mr Ronald Williams, Minister of State Enterprises and Senator Anthony Jacelon, Minister in the Ministry of Finance and Planning all sat in and gave explanations at the Press conference, held at Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain.

Reduction of the tax is expected to result in a decline of \$160 million in revenue from that source but it would be offset by increase in Corporation tax from the oil companies and also increase in unemployment levy and normal income tax to be collected from increased employment overall in the oil industry, including oil servicing companies.

Cabinet's decisions relating to taxation and provisions for the oil industry as announced by Mr Mahabir yesterday were:

--The rate for supplemental petroleum tax for land operations should be reduced from 35 per cent to 15 per cent subject to review at October 31, 1983 in the light of programme of work submitted by the oil companies.

--The Minister of Energy and Natural Resources should expand the schedule of items eligible for the [word indistinct] 140 per cent allowance which is deductible in computing the Supplemental Petroleum Tax, to include (the capital cost of) wells drilled either as injectors or offtakes in enhanced recovery schemes within these schemes.

--Workovers on petroleum wells which constitute repair and maintenance activity should, to the extent that they constitute such activity, be expensible of tax purposes.

Amend the Law

--The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs should advise whether the treatment of workovers is provided for under the present law, and if not, steps be taken to amend the law accordingly.

It was in January that Cabinet appointed a committee of public officers to consider and advise the Prime Minister who is Minister of Finance and Planning, on whether a case existed or was likely to arise in the immediate future for a review of the rates applicable under the SPT; and in the event that a reduction in the rates was proposed, what measures, if any, should the petroleum companies be required to introduce in order to offset the social and economic effects on the national economy, particularly in the areas of investment and employment.

Drawing attention to the time taken to decide on action relating to the SPT Mr Mahabir explained that while the Minister of Finance had the powers to adjust the levels of the SPT, quite naturally he could not just respond without having a study done.

He said that the proposals of the companies relating to the reduction in the SPT were different.

State-owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) proposed the reduction to 15 per cent...the figure agreed to. Texaco suggested that the SPT should be 7½ per cent and Trinidad Tesoro, which Government has majority interest, proposed that there should be no supplemental petroleum tax.

He said that the proposals were interim recommendations with special relation to land operations and the situation relating to offshore operations was still engaging the attention of the committee.

In the meantime, negotiations relating to the future operations of Texaco in Trinidad and Tobago are continuing.

Mr Manning explained that based on the decisions and the arrangements made with the oil companies, they confidently expected to see an increase in the level of activity in the oil industry. He expected a very significant increase in the workover and the levels of employment.

Mr Manning added that the operations in the oil companies were being kept under constant review.

Mr Williams emphasised that the tax concessions was not a handout. It was the result of hard bargaining.

Mr Mahabir stated: "We must not delude ourselves that these would result in increased land production. These activities are intended to stimulate activity."

Texaco Commitment

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Texaco Trinidad Incorporated has agreed to spend an additional \$47 million this year in drilling and steam injection activities following negotiations with Government relating to decrease in taxation and stemming retrenchment in the oil industry.

State-Owned Trinidad and Tobago Oil Company (Trintoc) is to drill an 18,000 foot well at a cost of \$22 million in the Moruga area in a bid to find a new oilfield. Trintoc is also to spend \$27 million on other wells while Trinidad Tesoro has made proposals aimed at maintaining employment levels.

Premier Consolidated Oilfields Limited is now in discussions with bankers for injection of new capital for a major secondary recovery project.

Details of commitments by the oil companies to Government were given by Energy Minister Patrick Manning at a Press conference at Government offices, Riverside Plaza, yesterday.

He was one of the Ministerial team headed by Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives, explaining the situation.

Mr Mahabir said it was hoped that the tax concession given by Government would go a long way to increasing activity in the oil industry. The service companies which retrenched many workers, were expected to benefit.

Cabinet had taken note of the commitments made by the oil companies.

He said Texaco indicated that it would contract a rig to complete drilling on one of its wells where drilling was suspended. Texaco also pledged to prepare and use one of its own rigs for development.

That Company had suspended its steam injection programme and was now prepared to resume it.

"It will involve additional expenditure of \$47 million by Texaco in 1983. We will be vigilant and ensure commitments are adhered to and we are giving companies enough time," Mr Manning said.

Trintoc, he said, which had originally committed itself to three wells in 1983, had given the Ministerial team commitment for a fourth well, had made proposals for the additional wells and had also committed itself to two additional secondary recovery projects. Anticipated expenditure was \$27 million.

Trintoc, he added also proposed drilling an 18,000 foot well in the Moruga area.

It would be a wildcat well and would be initiated next year. It related to the country's plans to identify a new oil province.

Silence From Texaco

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

TEXACO Trinidad Inc., the largest oil company operating in Trinidad and Tobago, is expected to make a statement shortly on the decision by Government to reduce the Supplemental Petroleum Tax from 35 per cent to 15 per cent.

When asked for a comment yesterday on the decision, a Texaco spokesman said that before they made their statement they must see the document relating to the matter. The document will be studied and a statement would follow.

A source close to Texaco observed that from the information published in the "Guardian" yesterday, no mention was made about the all-important matter of pricing of crude and the lesser refining throughput tax.

What was given prominence, the source said, was the decision to reduce the Supplemental Petroleum Tax which will bring some relief to the oil companies in the areas of drilling and well work-overs.

But nothing was published in connection with refinery throughput tax and pricing of crude. It was learnt that the last time Government priced crude was in the second quarter of 1982.

Decisions to lower the tax from 35 per cent to 15 per cent for land operations, retroactive to January 1 this year, follows months of discussions and negotiations involving Ministers and other senior government officials and representatives of the oil companies in a situation of declining oil prices, retrenchment and general uncertainty.

CSO: 3298/791

TEXACO, TRINTOC NOTE 'SUBSTANTIAL' LOSSES AS OUTPUT LAGS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The two local refineries at Texaco and Trintoc are operating at less than 30 per cent capacity and undergoing substantial losses. Drawing attention to this last night, Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour Social Security and Cooperatives, said that the local market for the refineries represented only a minor percentage of refinery output and if they were to operate at acceptable efficiency levels, then they must find export markets for the bulk of their refined products.

He said that in this setting the recent decision of the Caricom Heads of Government to accept the marketing aspect of the regional energy plan represented an important step forward.

Speaking at a meeting of the Southern Division of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce at Gulf City, La Romain, Mr Mahabir drew attention to the reduction in the supplemental petroleum tax. The concessions made would be carefully monitored against the level of activity and work programmes outlined by the producing companies, he said.

Mr Mahabir said that admittedly the petroleum industry would continue for some time yet to be the main foundation of the Trinidad and Tobago economy but it had become crucial that a broader-based economy must be developed urgently. "Survival clearly rests upon a much-advanced pace of economic diversification."

He referred to the protective barrier the United States had raised against steel from ISCOTT, and pointed out too that while the level of crude oil production continued to fall, there were impressive successes in the production of natural gas.

Below Expectation

The installed ammonia capacity which exceeded one million tons a year put the country among the top exporters in the world but international market prices were depressed "so that the contribution which this industry has made to the balance of payments has been below our expectations."

He said that they were looking forward hopefully to better results from the methanol and urea projects to come on stream in 1984.

Mr Mahabir said:

In developing plans and programmes along these lines, we certainly did not foresee the massive explosion in costs and prices which has been the outstanding feature of this country's experience over the past seven years. There is no question but that this explosion has reduced productivity, distorted the distribution of investment and eroded the competitive position of this country, both as a place in which to invest and as a producer of saleable goods and services.

"We also may have tried to do too much too quickly in seeking to satisfy the aspirations of the population for a rapid improvement in the social and economic infrastructure and rising real consumption levels.

Events suggest also that the public sector investment programmes should have given higher priority, in terms of time, to the necessary rationalisation of the refining sector. And few could foresee the 22% reduction in the real price of oil, a reduction which has put a severe strain on the balance of payments and on public revenues."

"It is always possible, with hindsight, to see things much clearer. But progress is based on foresight, not on hindsight. In exercising such foresight, we need to take account of all the information available, much of which is inevitably contradictory.

But, at the end of the day, each of us has to exercise a judgment, take a decision and go forward. Status quo is not an option for a country or a business; but moving from status quo involves uncertainty and risks."

"What is abundantly clear" the Minister said "is that if we are to succeed in achieving the extent of economic diversification and transformation we need to have, it is absolutely necessary to establish such business ventures, the products of which are essentially export oriented.

"To procrastinate or to delay unduly much longer is to do so at our economic peril."

CSO: 3298/791

TEXACO EXPLAINS 'STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL,' DECLINE IN OUTPUT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 1 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

TEXACO is very concerned about the continuing decline of its local crude oil Production as the struggle for survival of the company continues.

According to the latest issue of the "Texaco Star," it is the company's main source of revenue and provides feed stock for the refinery at Pointe-a-Pierre. Since November 1982, no foreign crude oil has been refined as the company's main customer terminated its processing agreement for economic reasons.

The company said that due to the major drop in oil prices at the beginning of this year which further aggravated an already untenable tax position it had to severely curtail producing activities in its land operations as most of its employees were already aware.

It said that with the current activities, land production would decrease from a level of 4.9 million barrels or 13.4 MBCD (thousands of barrels per calendar day) to some 4 million barrels by the end of 1983, and if the decline was not arrested, would be down to 2.7 million barrels by next 1985 — a level of only 7.4 MBCD. That is almost half the production rate at the beginning of this year.

Textrin said any decline in land production would further reduce the already low level at which the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery is operating. This decline could only be arrested by further drilling and for this activity to be economical, it required a substantial reduction in the supplemental petroleum tax of these operations.

"We are not the only ones facing such a decline and probably for the same reasons".

The company said it might be difficult to understand what a tax rate of 140 per cent, recently men-

tioned in the Press with reference to its land operations, really meant. When a tax system did not take into account a company's cost and expenses (as is the case with the supplemental petroleum tax) then the total of taxes plus operating tax and expenses were found to exceed revenue, the company's stated.

In this position which the company found itself, the money had to be found from elsewhere to pay the tax, and costs percentage must be reduced to minimise the loss.

"This is why you see, all around, a drive to reduce costs a serious and total look at justifying all expenditure, a concerted effort to get out of the red."

The closing down of the Star Farm and the citrus estate at Brighton and the sale of idle equipment and properties, the closure of the school, all non-oil operations — could no longer be afforded. "The programme of early retirement and the concomitant reorganisation of the company's operations structure were efforts designed to streamline efficiency and enhance cost effectively, in other words, it is a struggle for survival" Textrin stated.

It was pointed out too that it was well known that markets were shrinking all around, "especially our traditional export market in the U.S. with this reduction in demand, it is hard to forecast a capacity for the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery much beyond 100 MBCD for the foreseeable future and this suits downstream processing units.

"Our Crude production (including our one third share of Trinmar) is approximately 25 MBCD; this matches well with the recently stated position that the company retains a 25 per cent equity in the refinery," it was stated.

BRIEFS

OIL SECTOR IMPROVEMENT PROSPECTS--Recent fall in crude oil prices and the resolution of the retirement dispute at the country's major refinery may improve refinery economics and stimulate greater activity in the coming months. This is the view expressed in the Quarterly (March 1983) ECONOMIC BULLETIN published by the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago. The optimistic outlook continued: "It is unlikely, however, that refinery throughput will improve sufficiently to match levels attained in previous years. Domestic refining activity will continue to be adversely affected by current trends in the international market, particularly with respect to its principal product, residual fuel oil the demand for which fell by 20 percent during 1982 and is forecast to decline by a further ten per cent in 1983." [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Jul 83 p 4]

GRENADA OIL PAYMENTS--Grenada is experiencing problems in paying for its petroleum products supplied by Texaco Trinidad Inc. It is understood that Texaco told Grenada that "no money no oil" for this month. Texaco supplies about 99 per cent of Grenada's oil needs. The rest comes from Shell's Netherlands Antilles refinery. Prime Minister Maurice Bishop told the GUARDIAN that with the fall in crude prices petroleum products became cheaper but Texaco was asking for more money for its products. He said Texaco was owing Grenada several thousands dollars. Grenada did not intend to pay more and the matter was being discussed with Texaco. Retail prices have not gone down in Grenada, Mr Bishop said. The Government hope to use the current prices as a conservation measure. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 9 Jul 83 p 1]

VENEZUELAN OIL TEAM--A team of Venezuelan oil officials led by Mr Rene Arreza, director of International Affairs, Ministry of Energy and Mines, is in Trinidad holding talks with Government officials. The four-man team drawn from the Energy Ministry and State-owned Petroleos de Venezuela, met Mr Patrick Manning, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources late yesterday evening. Further talks will be held today with officials of Trintoc. Details have not been given but it is understood that the Venezuelan team is following up discussions started last month by Mr Manning who spent a week in Caracas. On that visit Mr Manning sought to have locals trained in Venezuela and exchange petroleum technology with Petroleos de Venezuela. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 1]

CSO: 3298/792

OECS HEAD EXAMINES ORGANIZATION'S FUTURE PROSPECTS, NEEDS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 9

[Text]

CASTRIES:

THE ORGANISATION of East Caribbean States (OECS), grouping seven Windward and Leeward Island states, has just embarked on its third year's operation, satisfied that a lot of groundwork has been laid for future joint cooperation.

But OECS Director General, St Lucian Vaughan Lewis, feels there is still a need to consolidate and strengthen its institutions, if the sub-regional grouping is to effectively face the challenges of the eighties.

"In a period when there is a scarcity of financial resources, and activities of governments become more numerous, there is an urgent need to consolidate institutions such as the Supreme Court, the Directorate of Civil Aviation and the Eastern Caribbean Tourism Association and the General Bank," Lewis said on the occasion of the second anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Basseterre establishing the organisation.

IMPACT

He added: "These will have an important impact on our lives and the secretariat will be looking forward to planning, so that when governments are ready to act, we will have in place certain kinds of proposals for action and for introducing legislation."

Dr Lewis said that the OECS will also need to rationalise its relations with other Caribbean Community (Caricom) countries and ensure that within the Caricom system, the OECS countries will get a fair share of the proceeds and benefits of the Caribbean integration system as a whole.

Looking back on activities of the organisation, Dr. Lewis said that

the past two years saw a period of transition and the establishment of the structure of the organisation.

"Basically, our structure is in place and the organisation has started to function in the way we think it should. However, we still need to make certain appointments in the secretariat to ensure that all areas are covered," he said.

COOPERATION

The treaty establishing the organisation, signed on June 18, 1981, covers cooperation by the states in a wide range of areas such as economics, politics, foreign relations and functional co-operation in education and health.

It commits member countries to attempt to harmonise their policies within the sphere of competence of the committee of foreign affairs, economics, defence and security.

The OECS currently groups Antigua-Barbuda, Dominica, Saint Lucia, Grenada, St Kitts-Nevis, St Vincent and The Grenadines and Montserrat.

The Director General said the OECS is looking forward to the conversion of the East Caribbean currency authority to a Central Bank on October 1 an event postponed on three occasions.

"This, a highly-technical area, involves an almost unique experiment

which we are trying to undertake. There isn't anywhere else in the world, where sovereign states have agreed that they should have a single Central Bank for various countries," Dr. Lewis said.

He added: "There is an experiment in French West Africa but that leans on the monetary system of France for protection, but in our case, the OECS has an autonomous

currency (EC dollar equivalent to 37 cents U.S.).

Dr. Lewis said that the East Caribbean Currency Authority has been functioning reasonably well but with the onset of independence, most of the island's wish to be more active in their monetary policy, by relating it to development policy more closely.

"The officials of the Secretariat and from the national governments had to go through the long process of trying to reach an accommodation between centralising policy on one hand and trying to ensure that each country would have the capacity to conduct its economic policy in a manner appropriate to their governments and countries," he added.

The OECS states have reached broad agreement on the establishment of the bank, but have had problems with the proposal on the distribution of profits, as a consequence of the functioning of the Central Bank.

Dr. Lewis disclosed that the technicians "have now worked out a formula, which has been accepted by all governments in which the distribution of profits over periods of time would be seen to be fair."

FORMULA

"With that we are fairly confi-

dent that the Central Bank will come into operation on October 1st 1983," he added.

The organisation remains concerned about its trade relations with members of the wider Caricom area. That includes the regions four more developed countries — Jamaica, Barbados, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago.

The Economic Affairs Committee has just completed a review of a report of meetings held in Barbados and Jamaica on the trade problems which arose out of Jamaica's introduction of a two-tiered currency exchange system.

"We accepted as viable, the solution achieved at the mini heads of government in Barbados and the authority is of the view that we should wait and see how the system functions," Dr. Lewis said.

The Secretariat has been very much involved in trying to elaborate proposals to facilitate the operation of the industries in the OECS countries.

"The position is that we accept the promises given by the various countries at the meeting in Barbados and hope that the matter will again be reviewed at the Caricom heads of Government meeting in July," he said.

(Cana)

CSO: 3298/794

GRENADA DISSIDENTS GATHER IN TRINIDAD, CHART GOALS

Pre-Caricom Gathering

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

NEITHER stubborn grassroots resentment nor complacency among Caribbean leaders about the Grenadian situation will prevent the Grenada Democratic Movement from carrying through its campaign to enlighten the world, particularly Grenadians inside and outside Grenada, to the point where Mr. Maurice Bishop will be discarded.

That was the promise made by four spokesmen of the GDM yesterday afternoon as they issued invitations to a Press conference carded for today.

The four men — Reynold Benjamin, barrister and editor of "the Grena-

dian", Michael P. Jeffrey, dental technician, public relations man of the New York chapter of the GDM, Roy McBain, M.Sc (Criminal Justice), chairman of the New York chapter, and Keith C. Mitchell, professor of mathematics at Howard University and a former electoral candidate in Grenada — made it clear that the movement was non-violent "because we do not want to have to resort to violence."

They are in Trinidad to bring to the attention of Caricom Heads of Government the need for them to "do something about Bishop."

Democratic Movement

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

AN international organisation of Grenadians, aiming at the removal of the People's Revolutionary Government (PRG) of Grenada from office by non-violent means, is expected to be formally launched in Port-of-Spain this week.

Announcement to that effect was made by spokesmen of the Grenada Democratic Movement, growing out of a loose collection of autonomous groups in the West Indies and the U.S.A., which, for at least one year, had been in communication seeking a formula for organisation.

It was finally decided to found one formal body, "an umbrella organisation," the acting GDM chairman said.

Many exiles living in the U.S. and elsewhere are expected to arrive for

the meeting. Some of them are former detainees who had been interned by the PRG without charge or trial.

The GDM made it plain on Saturday that if they were to succeed in defeating Mr. Bishop, they would not be exercising any vindictiveness against Sir Eric "a clown" whose policies and conduct, they said, they detested and had personally opposed for a long time, but "too much blood has already been spilled, too much suffering in-

flicted," for them to carry out a policy of vengeance.

Four spokesmen of the GDM who appeared at the Press conference were Mr Renault Benjamin, acting chairman, a lawyer who lives in Trinidad; Mr Michael Jeffrey, a New York-based dental technician and public relations man who freelance as a radio broadcaster and writer, Mr Keith Mitchell, an assistant professor (statistics) in the mathematics department of Howard University, and Mr Roy McBain, who holds a master's degree in Criminal Justice.

The GDM expects to introduce the full leadership to the media during this week.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

GRENADA'S Government maintains a "concentration camp" at a site called Hopeville, and uses it for the exclusive confinement of Rastas, who are seized willy-nilly, shaved, and put to work to grow crops, probably used for feeding the public institutions or "commercialised." A baby born to a female detainee has completed its first two years of life in prison with its mother.

These charges were made in Port-of-Spain by a Grenadian exile now living in Trinidad, a dispirited ex-detainee who was at first, denied the right to leave Grenada, and then ordered to do so.

He said he had been beaten on several occasions for opposing Sir Eric Gairy, and when the Bishop revolution (or coup) occurred, he had rushed home from Trinidad, only to find himself, within weeks, detained. He was released more than three years later, without either having been charged or tried for any offence.

ESTATE SEIZED

He accused the PRG of lying continually about the number of detainees. Here is his explanation:

When the PRG seized power and began to rule the country, a group of Marxists seized an estate and promised to run it as a workers' cooperative, but Castro advised Bishop against this because "capital may flee the country."

This led to publication of an article by the confiscators of the estate, critical of the Bishop regime. This led, in turn, to the seizure of the confiscators.

One thing led to another, and the Bishop Government then forbade the publication of newspapers, while going about arresting anyone who privately or publicly voiced criticism or opposition.

"More than 300 persons have been detained since that time, many of them merely to be used as bargaining points (as when the Ocho Rios conference questioned detention) and the others to intimidate the restive population."

"But Bishop cannot tell the truth to the world, because it would show him up. He seizes people in Grenada to frighten the population, but he lies about the number, as when he was interviewed by the 'New York Times.'"

Up to the end of December, 1982, there must have been more than 100 persons of the original 300 still in detention, this ex-detainee stated.

What happened to the others?

"Some were ordered to leave the country, others left on their own free will, and others were forced to stay," he explained.

This ex-detainee professed concern that the Grenada Democratic Movement is not pushing hard enough the case for the humane treatment of detainees.

He supports the GDM's efforts generally, but questions the view, from his experience in

confinement, that the detainees are more in anguish from denial of liberty than they are from the inhuman conditions under which they exist.

Said he:

"Some of the tactics used to degrade detainees are less rations, little or no access to senior officers in the prison, scant medical attention, punishment for communicating with prisoners, shaving of heads, arbitrary suspension of visits, a 23-hours a day lock-up (that began about 30 months ago) seizure of radios, literature, and musical instruments.

"Rasta detainees are periodically starved by abruptly stopping their 'ital' foods. Then there are physical assaults by teenaged 'Dracula' soldiers. There have been prison shootings of detainees, Langohd, Charles, Ras Nang (on two occasions) and a prisoner.

"Detainees who insist that prison regulations forbid the continued locking-up of inmates for such prolonged periods are told by Commissions of Prisons, McLeish, that the army, not the prison authorities, are responsible for them.

"Those seeking medical aid for eyesores, diminishing eyesight, and obvious nutritional deficiencies come up against doctor-imports from India, who are either unwilling or unable to help.

"Three detainees have died in the last two years, one from Hopeville. Barry Joseph, Langdon, Thompson (deceased) all received scant medical attention when critically ill.

"Though I was not physically beaten during my 33-months after being kidnapped under gunpoint, I wish to point out that, ultimately, the battle is for the mind.

SINISTER DEVELOPMENT

"Psychiatric treatment of certain detainees and the attempt to remove detainees like de Raviniere and Ras Irod to lunatic asylums, is one sinister development. Mental torture requires no physical blow to score its point.

"The habit of night-duty soldiers constantly waking up detainees and the early humiliation of making detainees wait until all prisoners are fed, even though they come in on different shifts, are instances, as is the practice of recruiting informers and provocateurs among prisoners.

"I have personally witnessed unnecessary and brutal beatings, have heard these beatings, was present when Soldier L machine-gunned Ras Nang, shooting him even after he had fallen."

Outside the walls of the detention centres, Richmond Hill male prison and Richmond Hill female prison and the Hopeville concentration camp, the ex-detainee said the inhumanity continued.

"Suspension of the Constitution and the revolutionary practice of passing laws by mere decree, laws like the newspaper law with retroactive effects, make something which is legal today retroactively illegal tomorrow and engender the kind of fear or persuasive force for Grenadians to observe silence.

"Imprisonment without trial was not necessary, except that it has given the PRG an ace in the hole with which they can barter internationally.

"For example, if there were no detainees, pressure groups outside the country may well focus on other sensitive areas to make concessionary demands.

"The timing of the last releases (close to 100) November and December, 1982, was clearly political, a response to the Ocho Rios Summit. In fact, of the remaining 100 detainees, no more than a dozen are considered serious security threats by the PRG hierarchy.

"The presence of (hundreds) of foreign Marxist-Leninists and the importing of technical and administrative superstructure, have alienated the population from Bishop's socialism. People whisper that without the Cubans the PRG could never survive.

CSO: 3298/794

CARICOM COORDINATES PROGRAM TO 'BALANCE' POPULATION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Jun 83 p 5

[Text] Georgetown, Wed., (CANA): The Caribbean Community (Caricom) Secretariat is coordinating a four million dollar (US project, aimed at bringing the populations of the region's lesser developed countries (LDCs) into better balance with available resources by limiting birth rates, a spokesman for the Secretariat said. [as published]

Other major participating agencies in the population and development project are the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the International Planned Parenthood Federation Western hemisphere Region (IPPF/WHR) and Tulane University, in the United States, which is responsible for research, the official said.

University of the West Indies, PAHO, WHO and the Caribbean Family Planning Association (CFPA) are also associated with the project, which will embrace Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts-Nevis, Saint Lucia and St. Vincent and The Grenadines.

The official said Belize was expected to decide shortly on the extent of its participation, and he explained Caricom's prime responsibility under the project as stimulating:

--Formulation of a population policy by each member state;

--Awareness of the community, including the leaders, about population trends and their consequences, and to assist in orienting doctors and other health staff in the most up-to-date family planning techniques and practices.

He said the Caricom component of the project would spread over three and a half years, and implementation of a work plan drawn up for the first year was already well underway.

The official said activities "have included a meeting convened by the Caricom Secretariat in St. Vincent and the Grenadines in February, 1983, at which permanent secretaries of the regions ministries of health were fully briefed on the project's goals and objectives and major aspects of the programme.

National Task Force

This was followed, in March, in Barbados, by the inaugural meeting of the medical steering committee, which is mainly concerned with medical policies and practices in family planning services.

"Each of the participating countries will have a national population task force, which will be responsible for devising and implementing its own national population policy," the official continued.

These policy aspects would be complemented by the contribution of IPPF, which USAID had contracted to assist the countries in improving the delivery of family planning services.

"It is expected that by the end of the project, leaders and medical personnel in each of the countries will have devised appropriate policies and effective procedures, to make a significant impact on the population problem that is posing a serious threat to the future well-being of the people of the region," the official said.

CSO: 3298/793

CHAMBERS ADDRESSES OPENING CARICOM SUMMIT MEETING

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5, 6 Jul 83

[5 Jul 83, pp 1, 14]

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago is prepared to continue to assist its regional partners even though it has had to ask its own citizens to adjust their expectations and to make sacrifices.

This assurance to Caricom leaders was given by Prime Minister George Chambers when he delivered the inaugural address at the formal opening of the Fourth Heads of Government Conference at the Hilton Hotel Port of Spain yesterday.

He pointed out that an appropriate allocation had been made in the 1983 Budget for the continuation of the oil facility. A review of the oil facility was being undertaken and details would be announced in due course, he added.

The Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister noted growing sense of mistrust among member States of Caricom. He said the enthusiasm of the people for the regional integration movement was on the wane and there was growing disillusionment and loss of faith in the Community.

Having listed these among the many shortcomings, he said that there was no other time in the history of the region that there was greater need for unity and adherence to the objectives of Article 4 in the Caricom Treaty.

Article 4 relates to economic integration, the coordination of foreign policy and functional cooperation.

In the face of the scarcity of foreign exchange and Governments adopting tough policies as a result, the regional integration movement, he observed, had lurched from crisis to crisis.

Mr Chambers pointed to the indiscriminate use of quantitative restrictions, disregard for the rules of origin, exchange rate manipulation and bureaucratic delays as means of restricting the entry of goods from other member States.

Common Positions

He said there were even suggestions to exclude from the multilateral payments scheme, a product which clearly satisfied the rules of origin.

Not only that, but the requirement of notification and consultation had been ignored even in cases where certain actions were permitted under the provisions of the Treaty.

He also pointed to the conspicuous failure by member States to adopt common positions for negotiation of international economic issues.

As a result many valuable opportunities for enhancing the trade and development of the region had been lost.

"Lamentably," added Mr Chambers, "we have not consistently followed a practice of prior consultation on such matters. This, I submit, is a failing which we must seek to redress within urgency."

Mr Chambers, emphasising Trinidad and Tobago's deep commitment to the regional integration movement, said that since 1974, Trinidad and Tobago made available almost TT \$1,000 million for the benefit of the region.

Disappointment

After pointing out further instances where Trinidad and Tobago had been short-changed, Mr Chambers hinted of a further loan to be made to member States on concessionary terms--an advance of \$6.6 million for them to meet their obligations for retroactive payments to the University of the West Indies (UWI).

He said Trinidad's Caricom Oil Facility was being reviewed and details would be announced in due course.

In relation to the proposed Regional Energy Plan, Mr Chambers said Trinidad and Tobago's position was that there be agreement for Trinidad and Tobago to be the supplier of petroleum and petroleum products to the region. Also, that member states should accept the principle of rationalisation of refining capability and authorise immediate discussions towards this end.

On regional air transport, he expressed disappointment that certain assurances given to Trinidad and Tobago in bilateral discussions had not yet been honoured.

He referred to the decision of the last summit — that an inter-governmental agreement on co-operation in air transportation be concluded.

On a likewise pressing issue — trade — Mr. Chambers said it was for the conference to determine whether or not the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) would continue to exist.

If it was the view that it ought to continue, then delegates would have to determine terms and conditions.

Mr. Chambers also discarded fears over the retention of the regional character of the UWI in the light of proposed restructuring of the institution.

Mr Chambers said:

We are assembled here as a Heads of Government Conference which is the principal organ of the Community with the primary responsibility to determine its policies.

Our aim will be to take specific decisions on several issues which are critical to the further growth of the Caribbean integration movement, if not its survival.

This, however, is entirely dependent upon the extent of meaningful work which in the short period since Ocho Rios, Ministers and Officials have been able to undertake on the matters referred for their consideration.

This conference is all the more significant since it coincides with the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty Establishing The Caribbean Community.

The Treaty in a very real sense embodies the ideals and aspirations of the West Indian people which a number of our distinguished statesmen and leaders have laboured to make a reality. I am sure that you would not consider it remiss if at this juncture I ask the Conference to take note of the fact that one of the most committed architects of Caribbean nationhood who was a signatory to this Treaty is no longer with us. I refer, of course, to Dr. Eric Eustace Williams.

The Treaty is intended as an instrument designed to put an end to the destructive and unsettling tendency to fragmentation and to serve as a stimulus to the enlargement of opportunities for the West Indian people.

In other words, it is a political franchise for economic and social advancement and the focus of the

long cherished though elusive ideal of West Indian unity. This it is the consummation of all that is noble in the West Indian spirit.

But a Treaty however well formulated and solemnly entered into by the contracting parties requires much more if it is to be translated into reality. A cursory glance at the region confirms this.

There is a growing sense of mistrust among member states as manifested by the many tendentious public statements and representations of individuals and economic institutions in the region. Indeed, there have been certain utterances, in recent times which even though couched in polite diplomatic language may be construed as interference in the internal affairs of other states.

Enthusiasm of the people for the regional integration movement is waning, and in the Community there is growing disillusionment and loss of faith. The fact remains, however, that what was created and given life at Chaguaramas is not merely a noble ideal, but is an expression of the principle that the pursuit of regional interests offers the best prospect for the economic and social development of each member state.

If we are to keep this noble ideal alive, if we are to properly frame our responses to the current challenges; if we are to give meaning to the vision which inspired the Treaty, then we must be convinced of the relevance and applicability of its provisions to the Community as it exists today.

In its Report entitled "The Carib-

bean Community in the 1980s" the Group of Caribbean Experts has stated that "developments since 1973 have not rendered invalid the goals and objectives set out in the Treaty of Chaguaramas. Indeed, these goals and objectives have greater relevance now as a result of the external economic pressures and recent geo-political developments in the region."

I agree with that submission. We must remember that the integration movement started a mere ten years ago which is a short period for redressing the imbalances and deficiencies inherited from the past. At no other time in the chequered history of the West Indian countries has there been a greater need for unity and adherence to the objectives set out in Article 4 of the Treaty, namely economic integration, co-ordination of foreign policy and functional co-operation.

The economies of member states have been battered by the adverse forces of prolonged recession in the world economy. Not only have the prices of key export commodities such as petroleum, bauxite, sugar, bananas, coffee and cocoa fallen, but in several cases the ability of the industry to survive is in doubt even if prices were to recover. Tourism, too, has had a decline in its fortunes as evidenced by low hotel occupancy rates.

As a result, the ability of our economies to earn foreign exchange which is such a vital resource has been severely eroded. This coupled with very difficult borrowing conditions in the international capital markets has led to a situation in which some member states have had to manage with little or no foreign reserves.

This scarcity of foreign exchange

has forced governments to adopt tough policies in an attempt to adjust conditions in their domestic economies to the reality of their balance of payments situations. In doing so, however, the short-term interests of individual member countries have too often taken precedence over the commitment to secure larger development benefits for the region as a whole and for each state individually through co-ordinated and mutually supportive policies.

Accordingly, the regional integration movement has lurched from crisis to crisis whether in the narrow area of intra-regional trade and payments or in the broader arena of functional co-operation in matters such as education and transport.

We have witnessed the indiscriminate use of quantitative restrictions, disregard for the rules of origin, exchange rate manipulation and bureaucratic delays as means of restricting the entry of goods from other member states.

There have even been suggestions to exclude from the ambit of the multilateral payments scheme, a product which clearly satisfies the rules of origin. The requirement of notification and consultation has been ignored even in cases where certain actions are permitted under the provisions of the Treaty.

What is more, there has been a conspicuous failure to adopt common positions for negotiation of international economic issues, with the result that we have certainly lost many valuable opportunities for enhancing the trade and development of the region.

It is my belief that the Caricom countries, acting as a bloc, can influence the outcome of deliberations on those issues which directly affect our regional economic interests.

[Text]

Our experience of negotiations with the European Community exemplifies this and, indeed, such a co-ordinated approach is clearly provided for in the Treaty. Lamentably, we have not consistently followed a practice of prior consultation on such matters. This, I submit, is a failing which we must seek to redress with urgency.

Trinidad and Tobago for its part has not escaped the adverse effects of the international economic recession even though it may have been better placed than some of its Caricom partners.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, fully cognisant of the needs of the Caricom integration movement, has shared with its regional partners, its limited resources which have become even more limited with the decline of oil prices.

Not only did this country provide a wider market for goods from other member states, but it also made available financial assistance on concessionary terms to other countries in the region and permitted its citizens to invest in high priority activities in some countries.

Financial assistance from Trinidad and Tobago to other Caricom states and to regional institutions had totalled approximately TT \$895 million since 1974 while investments by Trinidad and Tobago residents in other Caricom states have been about TT \$28 million since 1976. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago itself has committed TT \$62 million for direct investment in joint venture enterprises in the region. Altogether, therefore, Trinidad and Tobago has made available almost TT \$1,000 million for the benefit of the region.

SACRIFICES

Trinidad and Tobago is prepared to continue to assist its regional partners even though it has had to ask its own citizens to adjust their expectations and to make sacrifices as a result of declining oil revenues.

To this end an appropriate allocation has been made in the 1983 Budget for the continuation of the Oil Facility. A review of the Facility is currently being undertaken and details will be announced in due course.

And now, what of the future? Is the vision of the Community as a symbol of hope and a practical mechanism for the improvement of

the quality of life for all the people of the Caribbean a mirage?

Do we therefore, bowing to the harsh realities of 1983, dare to opt out of this endeavour towards a shared destiny on which we embarked ten (10) years ago?

To put it bluntly, can we summon and muster those qualities of leadership and statesmanship which would arrest the ascendancy of age-old inter-island rivalries and divisiveness, be they of our own making or otherwise?

May I remind you that only last year in Ocho Rios, Heads of Government "declared our belief that the regional integration movement is the only viable option available for the optimal development of all the human and natural resources of the Region in the contemporary economic and political circumstances in the Region as well as in the world as a whole."

Trinidad and Tobago unreservedly and whole-heartedly reaffirms its conviction as expressed by my predecessor, the late Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, at the inauguration of the Caribbean Community Treaty on July 4, 1973 that, "there can be no new dispensation which does not mean the integration of the fragmented economies of the people of the Caribbean, by the people of the Caribbean, for the people of the Caribbean."

If on that occasion he also recalled that we had experienced difficulties; frictions, misunderstandings and tensions, that more than once we had faltered on the way, on the long road the Commonwealth Caribbean had travelled since the dissolution of the West Indies Federation, then we should not be dismayed by

the current travails within the Caribbean Community. Far from it!

As regional economic integration movement go in the third world, our Caribbean Common Market remains a unique achievement. The fact is that we have had our share of the vicissitudes which typically beset and bedevil such movements notwithstanding which we are able to gather here today. We may perhaps be chastened, but in no way should we be disillusioned.

Imbued with this cautious optimism towards the future, Trinidad and Tobago accepts that two elements in the Community relationship stand out as priorities for the eighties and beyond, they are:

1. The achievement of greater co-ordination and co-operation in production through joint efforts; and

2. The achievement of greater co-ordination of external economic relations.

Of the many issues which we must address in the pursuit of co-operation in production none is more urgent and immediate than that of rationalisation of oil refinery capabilities in the common Market. At our meeting in Ocho Rios, Heads of Government agreed that the Ministers responsible for energy should, as a matter of the utmost priority, meet and prepare a comprehensive "Regional Energy Plan of Action to:

1. Promote the security of intra-regional supplies and markets of petroleum products; and
2. Seek to develop alternative sources of energy within the Region."

RATIONALISATION

The energy Ministers accordingly met in Port-of-Spain a month ago and considered these issues and their report is before us for consideration. Trinidad and Tobago's position is that the meeting should agree to this country being the supplier of first resort to the region and that member states should accept the principle of rationalisation of refining capability and authorise immediate discussions towards this end.

At Ocho Rios the important role of reliable and adequate air services in the promotion of economic development was also recognised and we decided that an inter-government agreement on co-operation in air transportation should be concluded in the light of the clear need to improve efficiency and enhance the viability of air transportation services owned by countries of the region.

To that end a high level Committee to prepare a Draft Agreement and to examine and make recommendations to Governments on all aspects of rationalisation of passenger and freight air transportation in the region, was appointed.

The Report of that Committee will also come up for discussion during our meeting. In this regard, I think I ought to express my disappointment that certain assurances given to Trinidad and Tobago in bilateral discussions have not yet been honoured.

Heads of Government will recall that in creating the Caribbean Common Market, we adopted a companion measure to the Common External Tariff, namely, the Common Protective Policy as an essential instrument in facilitating and promoting regional industries.

If as I believe it is generally accepted that regional programming in respect of both industrial and agricultural production must be accelerated then I respectfully suggest that there can be no further delay in taking steps to agree to a common protective policy.

It is Trinidad and Tobago's view that work towards this end should be undertaken in conjunction with the imminent revision of the Common External Tariff.

Our sights should not be limited, however, to co-operation in production for the domestic or the regional market; it is generally agreed that the way out of our economic dilemma lies in the creation of capabilities to earn foreign exchange in considerably larger quantities and through more diversified activities than at present.

For this reason it is imperative that we address the potential for co-operation in production for exports to third countries. This could be an additional dimension to regional industrial programming.

CREDIT LIMIT

The expansion of trade within the region is one of the basic objectives of the integration movement. Heads of Government will recall that the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (C.M.C.F.) was established to facilitate this and I think we all agree that it has contributed in no small measure to the growth of intra-regional trade in recent years.

However, the operations of the Facility were suspended as from the first of April this year owing to the fact that it had reached its maximum credit limit.

This matter has engaged the attention of the Standing Committee of Ministers of Finance and a report prepared by officials in response to its directive has been submitted for our consideration.

It is for this Conference to determine whether or not the C.M.C.F. will continue to exist. If in the view of Heads of Government such a Facility is needed then they must determine the terms and conditions on which it will operate.

I respectfully submit that a basic principle should be that all member states share proportionately in the costs of adjustment just as they share in the benefits of expanding

trade, production and employment.

Trinidad and Tobago's position is that continuation of the Facility is most desirable but it will have great difficulty in participating in any Facility which excludes petroleum and petroleum products.

Finally, a word about the University — Trinidad and Tobago continues to be unequivocally committed to the preservation of the University as a regional institution of the the highest academic standing, and even in respect of those programmes which it has unilaterally funded, provision has been made for the full participation of nationals of other countries in the region.

It is our view that restructuring provides the means by which the University will become more responsive to the needs and priorities of contributing Governments while retaining in spirit and in fact, its regional character.

Accordingly, it must embody mechanisms for identifying and promoting the interests of the non-campus countries. In this regard agreement has already been reached on special developments to take place in those countries and Trinidad and Tobago has undertaken to make the largest contribution to the financing of such developments.

A fundamental question associated with restructuring, in our view, must be the emergence of a structure of University leadership which will contribute to and preserve the regional character of the institution.

In the final analysis, however, the University will not survive if it does not receive adequate financial support. Unfortunately, the persistent failure of member countries to meet their financial commitments to the University has resulted in that institution being now in a position where, among other things, it is unable to meet its obligations to the staff of the St. Augustine campus.

May I respectfully remind you that St. Augustine is an integral part of the University and as such should not be placed in a disadvantaged position vis-a-vis other campuses.

I will be less than frank if I did not say that this is a matter of grave concern to both the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago and on their behalf I wish to reiterate Trinidad and Tobago's proposal made to the Chairman of the University Grants Committee at its last meeting as follows:

(a) All Governments should go on a current basis with effect from June 1, 1983.

(b) The Governments other than Trinidad and Tobago should contri-

bute immediately i.e., before December 31, 1983, 50 per cent of their obligations under retroactive payments.

(c) The Government of Trinidad and Tobago should contribute in full its share of retroactive payments. (In fact Trinidad and Tobago has already done so).

(d) The Government of Trinidad and Tobago should advance to the other Governments approximately TT \$6.6m to meet their obligations for retroactive payments.

(e) The advances at (d) above plus the amounts owed by the University of Trinidad and Tobago should be repaid in full by October, 1984 or the date on which the financial aspects of restructuring come into effect. Advances made to Governments by Trinidad and Tobago should bear interest at the rate of 1 year US Treasury Bills.

And now it only remains for me, on behalf of the Government and people of Trinidad and Tobago, to extend to you fellow Heads of Government, your respective delegations and indeed, to all visitors associated with this Conference, the warmest welcome to our country. I trust that the arrangements which we have made for your comfort will be found agreeable and satisfactory and that many of you will find it convenient to visit our sister island, Tobago.

I wish to extend a special welcome to the Prime Minister of the Bahamas. It is not without significance that it is on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the signing of the Treaty Establishing The Caribbean Community that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas has acceded to that Treaty and is now a full member of the Community.

The Bahamian delegation is no stranger in our midst having attended previous Conferences of Heads of Government and taken part in the work of several institutions of functional co-operation in the Community.

Today, however, Mr. Prime Minister, you sit among us in your own right, with a full voice, and on behalf of all Heads of Government assembled here. I take great pleasure in ushering you formally into the Community.

The eyes of the West Indian people, at home and abroad, and of all those who are touched by, or take an interest in the affairs of the Caribbean are upon us. It is my profound hope that fully conscious of the pitfalls and deceptive comforts of insularity, a major achievement of this meeting will be the strengthening of our resolve to act together.

ANTIGUA, ST KITTS SUPPORT BWIA; BIRD EYES CARICOM ISSUES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Ed Win Brant]

[Text] Acting Prime Minister, Lester Bird, of Antigua and Barbuda, is giving his fullest support to have BWIA designated the national carrier for his country.

Mr Bird said his Government was supporting BWIA for routes to Britain Canada and the United States.

On the London route, he said, his Government had been lobbying to have BWIA stop off in Antigua on the north and south bound flights.

Mr Bird said: "We are prepared to designate BWIA as the Antigua national carrier, with particular attention to North America. "There are problems as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, since we are not equity holders."

Antigua's position is "we will support BWIA as Antigua's national carrier."

Making Inroads

Support for BWIA in the region has also come from Dr Kennedy Simmonds, Premier of St Kitts/Nevis.

While airlines are having problems with flying rights and fares row, Antigua is making inroads with tourist traffic. Mr Bird said arrivals, which topped the 100,000 figure last year, showed an increase of 35 per cent to date.

What was of major concern to his country was a slowdown in light industries brought on by the Caricom trade row. He said there were 14 containers with appliances on the docks here, awaiting licenses from the Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Mr Bird said if the Ministry did not give permission to allow the goods to enter Trinidad, more than 100 people could lose their jobs at the assembly plant.

On energy, he said any solution taken had to be against the problems in the region, Antigua, which has a 20,000 barrel daily throughput refinery, was negotiating with Mexico to get a supply of crude for processing.

The Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), which buys half of the oil products from Antigua, is supporting that country in its energy drive.

Mr Bird said the regional energy action plan should take into consideration refining capacity and market demand in the region. He was concerned with plans to restructure the University of the West Indies, which he described as an institution holding the Caribbean together.

"The whole question of education is fundamental to our development, and we would like to see our people stay at home and get their higher education."

CBI Misgivings

He said the OECS was studying how best member countries could benefit from restructuring UWI in countries with campuses.

Overall, Mr Bird said, Antigua and Barbuda had done well in the international struggle against recession and inflation. The country showed a growth of two per cent last year, and inflation had been down from 11 per cent in 1981, to four per cent last year.

He had misgivings about the future of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which at first promised a free market for goods from the region. But bottlenecks had begun to appear in the CBI, and when it was passed by Congress, there may not be much it could offer to his country.

Mr Bird called on his Caricom colleagues to work towards the region being a zone of peace. "Our major concern should be less dependence on the super powers."

He also felt that discussion on apartheid in sport was important. Caribbean Governments should take a position not only in sport, but in the performing arts, he said.

"We must arrive at a regional consensus," he said, explaining that his country had a specific position.

CSO: 3298/794

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO LEADER DISCUSSES CARICOM TRADE ISSUES

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon: "Responsibility to Trading Partners Says Chambers"]

[Text] Prime Minister George Chambers said yesterday that Trinidad and Tobago could not put a wall around itself. There was a responsibility to ensure that this country's trading partners were in a position to trade.

"We are not completely shorn of responsibility from assisting our Caricom partners," he added.

Mr Chambers was speaking at a Press conference at his Whitehall office on last week's Caricom Summit which he chaired. The meeting was attended by the leaders of the 12 other Caricom States. His comments followed a question relating to Trinidad and Tobago's continuing aid to the region.

Touching on the overall issues discussed and stating that he was satisfied that the key issues energy, the University of the West Indies, the Caricom Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) and air transportation--were resolved, he said that he was delighted that decisions taken seven months ago at the Third Heads of Government conference in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, were acted upon swiftly.

He supported deepening of Caricom before widening.

It was the first official meeting between the Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister and the Press on the conference which began on July 4 and was scheduled to last four days, but took up another day, ending on July 8 after lengthy and late-night discussions.

Mr Chambers said: "I personally believe...it is not even the belief of the Trinidad and Tobago Government...I get the impression that the ideological differences now manifest in the Caricom region can, if not properly handled, retard the progress of Caricom.

"Matters are now becoming contentious. In the final analysis it would not help the regional movement."

That was not to say, he said, that "we do not come to terms. These impose tremendous strains on who is presiding."

"The hours were long. There was a great deal of giving and taking and if I speak for myself, I think we have accomplished quite a lot, he said.

Replying to a question he said: "You cannot shut up and put a wall around Trinidad and Tobago, like the Berlin Wall and assume that Trinidad and Tobago will survive inside there. You must interact with people. If nobody has a cent to buy anything from you, I do not see what you would be producing for.

"The fact of the matter is that our economy has been able to withstand the difficulties of world recession with a lot of more resilience than the people among us, but that does not mean that we are completely shorn from responsibility of assisting our Caricom Governments."

Keep Talking

He drew attention that he was recorded as stating that they have got to keep talking with Mr Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada. When asked about his comments after the Ocho Rios conference and his discussions with Mr Bishop, he said Mr Bishop had adhered to the timetable he had given him and "is still within the timetable he gave me in Ocho Rios."

He explained that he had very informal talks with Mr Bishop during last week's Summit. The talks arose out of his (Mr Chamber's) concern for the apparent difficulty which ideological plurality was causing. He had an interesting conversation and he would like to follow it up and felt it would be beneficial to everyone and he believed too that the regional integration movement could continue with different ideologies.

He said he believed that as the international recession receded there would be stimulation of trade.

"The economies of some islands are really in a bad way" and there was no protection for them, he noted.

Referring to the next Caricom Summit scheduled for the Bahamas next year, he said that he personally would "like to see food security and regional food production settled by the time we get to the Bahamas. It is recognised as an area of urgency."

Mr Chambers said he thought that Caricom was on the path charged by the late Dr Eric Williams.

Mr Chambers stated too that it was his intention to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' meeting to be held in New Delhi India in November.

TRINIDAD-TOBAGO UNIONS, MANUFACTURERS HAVE TRADE COMPLAINT

Appliance Origin Suspicions

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Affairs is probing the origin of "Made in Jamaica" refrigerators and stoves. It is believed they were manufactured in Antigua.

This was revealed yesterday by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association in response to charges that this country was not allowing importation of stoves and 'fridges while local businessmen had free access to the Jamaica market for similar products.

The TTMA charged a serious breach of the Caricom Treaty that would result in a net loss of employment in the region.

Over the past week, the TTMA said, it observed a mounting campaign by Jamaican businessmen calling for amendment of this country's Landholding Act which they claim denies them the opportunity to invest privately in Trinidad and Tobago.

And on trade, the Jamaicans complained about difficulties in obtaining licenses for the export of 'fridges and stoves to this country.

But the TTMA said it was concerned at the increasing imbalance of trade being experienced with Jamaica.

Data from the Trinidad and Tobago Central Statistical Office showed that imports from Jamaica for the period January to April this year amounted to \$47.1 million. Information obtained from the Ministry of Industry Commerce & Consumer Affairs indicated that licences to import \$67 million worth of goods from Jamaica were issued for the period May to June this year the TMA said.

Total imports for this year from Jamaica would not be less than \$115 million but could be considerably more if further licences were granted.

On the other hand exports from Trinidad and Tobago for the period January to April amounted to \$4.4 million. A survey initiated by the TTMA indicated that licences were obtained during May and June 1983 to export \$5m worth of goods to Jamaica.

Jamaica had a surplus in trade with Trinidad and Tobago of \$80.9 million last year. "We feel that a continuation of this imbalance is not in the interest of Trinidad and Tobago," according to a TTMA statement.

Mr Ray Hadeed of the Jamaica Exporters Association, in a recent Press release, indicated that 'fridges and stoves manufactured in Trinidad and Tobago were being allowed access to the Jamaica market. He complained that licences were not being obtained from Trinidad and Tobago to allow similar products manufactured in Jamaica to enter Trinidad and Tobago.

Mr Hadeed, speaking on the forum of the Jamaica Exporters Association (JEA), said that there was no reciprocity in trade in these products between Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica, implying that the goods were manufactured in Jamaica.

Checks with the Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Industry, Commerce & Consumer Affairs revealed that the applications for licences referred to by Mr Hadeed specified Antigua as the country of origin. The assembly of 'fridges and stoves in Antigua is suspect and the documentation is under investigation by the Trinidad Ministry.

The TTMA observed that Jamaica businessmen calling for the removal of the Aliens Landholding Act identified the real estate market and the distributive trades as areas for investment in Trinidad and Tobago.

The TTMA according to the statement, is interested to find out where the funds would come from for investment purposes.

Problem With Jamaica

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 83 p 3

[Text] A meeting of representatives of trade unions passed a resolution calling on the Minister of Industry and Commerce to investigate the adverse effects of the trading arrangements between this country and Jamaica and any other country.

The union representatives met at the Communication Workers' Union Hall on Wednesday to discuss mainly the situation with Catelli Primo Limited where workers are being retrenched because of competition from foreign markets, and also to discuss problems in the garment, sugar and other manufacturing industries.

The meeting called on the Minister to "make an up-to-date statement on the question of exports to Jamaica, in the light of the just concluded Caricom Heads of Government Conference where it appeared that some settlement on the issue was reached."

The meeting charged "violation" of contract by Catelli. The company gave the union only 18 days to assess the situation, it was stated.

The trade unions also expressed full solidarity for the 2,000 workers to be retrenched at Caroni Limited and called upon the management of the company

to immediately implement proposals of the Sugar Rationalisation Committee. The unionists expressed alarm at the number of workers (2,500) laid off in the garment industry within the past 18 months.

The meeting also decided that trade unions should call upon the Council of Progressive Trade Unions and the Labour Congress to convene talks on the question of retrenchment "as a matter of urgency."

Charge of Caricom Discrimination

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 83 p 4

[Text] Government is pursuing legitimate complaints from manufacturers concerning discrimination about Trinidad and Tobago exports to Caricom countries.

Minister of Labour, Social Security, and Cooperatives, Errol Mahabir, speaking at the meeting of the Southern Division of the Chamber of Industry and Commerce at Gulf City La Romain last night, said the Government was faced with a strident call for increased protection for the local manufacturer.

The protection call, he said, was for particularly against other Caricom exporters, "many of whom appear to flout the prescribed rules of origin.

"There is also concern that the undertakings given by certain governments, that licensing would be used solely for monitoring purposes, are honoured mainly in the breach."

He said that some manufacturers had drawn governments' attention to a situation where "convenient" considerations are used to discriminate against the goods which Trinidad and Tobago can export to the region.

"The government is pursuing legitimate complaints diligently," he stated.

Mr Mahabir said: "Trinidad and Tobago cannot survive on its own domestic market. Besides, while the Caricom market is of importance to us, we must recognise that the extra Caricom markets are of even greater importance particularly for the manufactures we plan to produce."

He said that the CBI notwithstanding, assured access to the United States market will be secured only through the combined vigilance of business, labour and government.

Mr Mahabir told the southern businessmen that the inward looking protectionist approach to industrial development could no longer subsist in the present environment and anything less than a forward looking, aggressive entrepreneurial approach towards exports would not arrest the decline.

CSO: 3298/793

BRIEFS

TRINIDAD-DOMINICA TALKS--Roseau, Wed., (CANA)--Private and public sector trade officials from Trinidad and Tobago are due here shortly, to finalise arrangements for increasing exports of Dominican agricultural produce to the twin island, Prime Minister Eugenia Charles said today. Miss Charles, who is responsible for trade, said the visit by the Trinidadians followed 18 months of negotiations. "In principle, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to receiving more exports from Dominica," the Prime Minister said. She added that Trinidad and Tobago had expressed special interest in purchasing local bananas, passion fruit syrup, grapefruit juice concentrate, and green limes. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 83 p 5]

CSO: 3298/794

BRIEFS

BARBUDA BY-ELECTION--St. John's, Sun., (CANA)--Mr George Beazer, a newcomer to politics, has been elected to fill the vacant seat on the Barbuda Local Government Council. Mr Beazer, who ran on a Barbuda People's Movement (BPM) ticket, edged out Mr Arthur Nibbs in a by-election in the island constituency. Figures released by the elections office show that Mr Beazer polled a total of 210 votes against Mr Nibb's 209 Mr Nibbs ran on an Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) card. The election was called to resolve a tie between Mr Nibbs and Mr Michael Harris, which occurred during the local government election last March. The returning officer, Mr Alvin Emmanuel, reported that 419 of the 582 registered voters on the Antigua sister island, exercised their franchise during the poll. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Jul 83 p 20]

CSO: 3298/795

CELEBRATIONS MARK 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF NATION'S INDEPENDENCE

Foreign Dignitaries

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 12 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Excerpt]

SIX Caribbean heads of government and hundreds of Bahamians attended a state dinner hosted Friday night by Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling at the Crown Ballroom of the Paradise Island Hotel.

Caribbean leaders included Prime Minister Edward Seaga of Jamaica, Prime Minister John Compton of St Lucia, Premier Dr Kennedy Simmons of St Kitts, Chief Minister Norman Saunders of the Turks and Caicos, Chief Minister Don Martina of the Netherlands Antilles and Chief Minister Ronald Webster of Anguilla.

Also attending the state dinner were Governor-General Sir Gerald Cash, who toasted the Queen, Dr Alejandro Ofila, Secretary-General of the Organization of American States, Zambian High Commissioner to the Bahamas B N Mibenge, resident in Ottawa, Canada, and Nigerian High Commis-

sioner to the Bahamas Gilbert C B Okany, resident in Cuba, Chief Justice Vivian Blake, QC, Catholic Bishop Lawrence Burke, Anglican Bishop Michael Eldon and President of the Bahamas Christian Council Rev Dr Philip Rahming.

In addition, Cabinet Ministers and members of the Opposition and hundreds of Bahamians from all walks of life crowded the plush and attractively decorated Crown Ballroom for the three-hour state dinner on the tenth anniversary of the independence of the Bahamas, gained on July 10, 1973.

As the foreign dignitaries arrived at the hotel, they were ushered upstairs to the Guwain Room where they were received by Prime Minister Sir Lynden and Cabinet Ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna and External Affairs Minister Paul Adderley.

Pindling Address

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 13 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Athena Damianos]

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER Sir Lynden Pindling, who was once optimistic that there would be full employment by 1980, has now predicted "economic independence" for the Bahamas by 1985.

The Prime Minister - in an interview over TV 13 with Ed Bethel - also said that the Bahamas is entering the "high fashion clothes business" and this would create hundreds of jobs for women.

"Over the next decade you will see the domination that white Bahamians still have over the economy shift. Black Bahamians are going to play a more major role on the economic front and the position between black and white as far as the control of the economy is concerned will be equalised," Sir Lynden said.

Young people will move into the new employment areas and "they are going to take it over," he added.

Asked Mr Bethel: "That is the economic independence you are talking about?"

"Yes!" responded Sir Lynden.

Sir Lynden said that Bahamians will make greater strides over the next 10 years.

"Tourism will explode and it will continue to be the linchpin upon which our economy will be based. The development of tourism in the islands - in the Family Islands - will take on a new dimension and over the next 10 years we can see the number move from two million in 1983 to three million by the end of the next decade," he said.

Sir Lynden said food production will increase to the point where "Bahamians...will become more self-supporting in food. They will become manufacturers, they will be processing food, they will be making clothes. You will be surprised at

some of the things you will see being made.

"Right now, though you might not know, we are entering the high fashion clothes business. A Bahamian has established a factory. He will be employing hundreds of ladies, producing high fashion goods that will sell around the world for name tags," he predicted.

Sir Lynden also felt that the Bahamas was on the verge of a building boom. He said there is a shortage of office space and that other smaller colonial countries that were competing with the Bahamas for captive insurance, banking, etc, have run out of space.

"They have only got a few square miles. We are the only ones with space. We have the best educated, best trained, best exposed population for the handling of international business and we take the view that this is where they are going to have to come," he said.

"So, you are going to find in 1984-85, there will be a new building boom of office space because we have to have the space for new businesses that are knocking on our door and will be coming in."

During his administration the Prime Minister has made a number of predictions, perhaps the most remembered being that of full employment. Sir Lynden said in the House of Assembly in December, 1978 that it was within the Government's capability to produce full employment by 1980.

Touring the recently acquired Hatchet Bay Farm in Eleuthera in May, 1977, Sir Lynden described the farm as "the greatest success story in agricultural in the history of the Bahamas."

Both predictions are far from becoming reality. In fact, unemployment figures and a financial report of the farm have not been made public for a number of years.

PINDLING DESCRIBES RESULTS OF VISIT TO CANADA

Nassau THE HERALD in English 7 Jul 83 p 4

[Text]

PRIME MINISTER PINDLING called Bahamian relations with Canada "easy and comfortable" during a recent four-day visit to Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto (June 27-30). He was accompanied by Foreign Affairs Minister Paul Adderley and Tourism Minister Perry Christie.

MR. PINDLING told reporters in Ottawa, Montreal and Toronto that his official visit was "to renew and strengthen our bilateral contacts at the highest level in the Canadian Government."

"I wanted to meet with business and banking communities of Toronto and Montreal as well as the travel and tour operators in those cities to promote The Bahamas as an ideal business and investment country and an attractive vacation destination," he added.

"PRIME Minister Trudeau and I had the opportunity to continue the discussions which we initiated in February this year at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Regional Meeting in St. Lucia. We discussed international, political and economic issues and commonwealth, caribbean and western hemisphere matters. We looked especially at the way in which the well-established relationship between The Bahamas and Canada could deepen through increased trade, investment, travel, technical assistance and professional links.

"WE agreed that The Bahamas and Canada would very soon sign a foreign investment insurance agreement which we hope would stimulate the interest of Canadian Investors in The Bahamas. I informed

Prime Minister Trudeau of The Bahamas. I informed Prime Minister Trudeau of The Bahamas government's intention to join the caribbean community but not the Common Market by signing and ratifying the Treaty of Chagaramas in July during the fourth Caribbean Community Heads of Government Meeting in Trinidad and Tobago.

"I advised Mr. Trudeau that as a consequence of this The Bahamas will be giving further consideration to the Canada/Caricom Trade and Economic Co-operation agreement which was signed in January, 1979 and which succeeded the 1925 Canada/West Indies Trade Agreement to which The Bahamas was a party. We discussed the need for The Bahamas and Canada to initiate negotiations leading to the conclusion of a new bilateral air service agreement to replace the UK/Canada 1949 Air Service Agreement.

"MR. TRUDEAU and I also talked about the need for The Bahamas and Canada to co-operate more closely in a systematic way in combating commercial and economic crime and in providing judicial assistance between our countries.

"FINALLY, we discussed the possibility of The Bahamas receiving technical assistance from Canada, especially in the

areas of defence training, education and in law of the sea matters such as the management of living resources and the exploitation of the seabed area within the 200-mile zone.

My visit underlines the importance with

The Bahamas

government places in the relationship with Canada and it is for this reason that we have two weeks ago opened our high commission. Canada is a natural partner for us. Our political philosophies are quite similar, especially in our firm commitments to the democratic process, wide personal freedoms for the individual and justice for all under the rule of law.

"WE applaud Canada and your Prime Minister for the role which they have played in the international arena in helping to develop consensus and convergence between the north and the south and the east and west. We congratulate you for the stand you have taken in human rights issues and in development assistance even when it hurts.

"WE sincerely hope that Canada would never give up this helpful international role."

AT a dinner given by the speaker of the Canadian House of Commons, Prime Minister

Pindling expressed concern "that the world of 1983 is increasingly less predictable and more unstable than it was in 1973 when we emerged onto the world stage."

"THE Bahamas, like Canada," he said, "is a trading nation, you in primary resources and manufactured goods, we in tourism and banking and insurance services. We have a huge and growing stake in what happens outside our borders. There is hardly a community in our countries which is not in some way affected by what happens in the Persian Gulf or some part of Africa or Europe, not to mention our common great neighbour."

"A short time ago events overseas would not have had such direct and predictable effect on us. Now, it is a truism to state that our economies and that of the world are firmly intertwined. Our destinies and that of the world have become inseparable as never before."

"IN these circumstances therefore, the search for world stability and order takes on an added sense of urgency. It is no longer an abstract concept. The realization of our national goals is enhanced or diminished by what happens outside our borders. It is for this reason that the approach to and proposed solutions to world problems are of vital importance to countries like The Bahamas and Canada whose links with and dependence on the

rest of the world are great.

"WE are concerned about events and developments in our part of the hemisphere. We are concerned that local and sub-regional problems are being magnified and expanded into global and major confrontations. We are concerned that issues of local politics and power sharing are being blown up into great ideological controversies."

"WE are concerned that military solutions are being preferred to political and negotiable solutions. We are concerned that the underlying causes of tensions and strife are being glossed over and that the basic human elements of the problems are being ill-attended to."

"THE BAHAMAS, like all third world states, regrets the demise of detente and the concomitant apparent resurrection of confrontational east-west politics. We believe that co-operation and co-existence among states can be facilitated through adherence to the principle of ideological pluralism. We believe too that the competitive logic of bloc politics has no place in the external affairs of small states."

AT a luncheon given by the Royal Bank of Canada and a dinner given by the Bank of Nova Scotia, Sir Lynden reaffirmed The Bahamas position

on bank secrecy.

"MY government's position with regard to such matters remains unchanged and we are now examining ways and means to strengthen the privacy and confidentiality between banks and their legitimate customers to protect both and the sovereignty of The Bahamas. At the same time, my government is also giving consideration to the laws which will enable criminals to be pursued successfully without destroying the banking system of our country. We are also considering the enactment of new laws which will facilitate criminal investigations in foreign countries which may wish to enter into mutual assistance agreements in such matters with The Bahamas."

"WE are all too aware of what the consequences of such an action will be in our case. Therefore, in the interest of maintaining and developing a strong and reputable financial system, we are prepared to do all that is necessary and feasible to stimulate the growth and development of our domestic and offshore banking sector to the mutual benefit of both banks and The Bahamas. We wish that you continue to support us in our efforts to maintain and strengthen the image of The Bahamas as a successful and reputable financial centre."

FNM LEADER WARNS PARTY CHANGES ARE NECESSARY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text] Opposition leader Kendal Isaacs last night warned his Free National Movement party that it has got to be "better organized" before it can become aggressive and demonstrate effectively.

Mr Isaacs also told about 200 people attending the party's second "Report to the People" rally at the S.C. McPherson School auditorium that they must not become relaxed and complacent.

Responding to statements by previous speakers that the party must become aggressive and demonstrate to make its presence felt, Mr Isaacs replied, "Before that could happen, before we could do that effectively, we have got to be better organized."

He said they must not organize the party on the platforms but must get into the polling divisions and into the districts and settlements before they get into the polling divisions.

"Too often we in the FNM have gone into election after election without that benefit although we say, and we say quite rightly, that we have had plenty of constituencies stolen from us," Mr Isaacs told the rally.

He said that in fact some of the FNM go so far as to say that the election was stolen from the party.

"But I don't want you to be relaxed and become complacent and say we won the last election therefore we really don't have to work between now and the next election because our support is out there," he warned. "That will be the biggest mistake that we could ever make."

He said the reality of the situation is that the ruling PLP won more constituencies and polled more votes than the FNM in the last general election held in June 1983.

"And I think it is our job, not just the job of us in the FNM, not just the job of the parliamentary members, nor just the job of the party officers, but

it is the job of every committed FNM to go out there and spread the gospel according to the Free National Movement," said Mr Isaacs.

He said they must gain support from the PLP, from the socialist Vanguard Party, the Workers Party and the uncommitted to add to the support the party now has.

He said the party has to draw to its fold people it can depend or not just to vote for the party, but who would be prepared to come out to meetings and demonstrate outside the House of Assembly.

"When we are properly organized in the constituencies, and only when we are properly organized in the constituencies, will we be able to do that, will we be able to depend on that kind of support when we need it and where we need it," he added.

Mr Isaacs pointed out that right now, only in constituencies represented in the House of Assembly by FNM members are constituency associations formed.

"That is not good enough," he said. "In the next three months, our hard working vice chairman, our hard working secretary-general and other officers of the party will go through New Providence and throughout the length and breadth of the Bahamas organizing these constituency associations."

He urged those who live in constituencies, which are not yet organized, to get in there and assist in the organization of constituency associations.

Mr Isaacs said that elections are not won at public meeting nor at demonstrations, "but are won in the constituencies, where not only do you have the majority of the voters but you are able to get out on election day a majority of the voters."

These are the people that the FNMs have to convince that they belong to the party and if they are prepared to stand with the FNM, there is strength in victory, he said.

"And whereas individuals can be picked off, when you have a strong cohesive force, a strong cohesive FNM, then not even the PLP government will be able to pick off our members and victimized them as they have been able to do," said Mr Isaacs.

Telling party supporters to get out there and organize the constituencies, Mr Isaacs said: "Before very long we will have such a strong and united party that we will be able to stand up to the PLP and we will be able to beat the PLP and we will be able to achieve that end which Mr Wallace Whitfield expressed last week; that we will be putting so much pressure on Mr Pindling and his party that they will not last the full term of five years."

CSO: 3298/796

OPPOSITION MP BLASTS PLP AT FNM PUBLIC RALLY

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 1 Jul 83 pp 1, 12

[Article by Anthony Forbes]

[Text]

FORMER Tourism Minister, Arthur Foulkes, now opposition MP for Blue Hills, declared last night that Government must take the Free National Movement seriously when it warns them to stop victimizing FNM supporters, because the party does not want to participate in a mockery of democracy.

Mr Foulkes called statements that the Bahamian people have no culture "absolute and total nonsense" and said that a culture exists but some Bahamians just do not identify with it.

He said he has been watching the PLP very carefully since the last election and does not believe the PLP intend to play by the rules of democracy.

He said the FNM proposes to move in parliament amendments to the Representation of the Peoples Act, and if the PLP does not play by democracy, the FNM will have to make certain choices.

He said the PLP government must stop the heartless victimization of FNMs and must take the opposition's warning seriously.

He told of the victimization of a party supporter at Mayaguana and said it has got to stop or "this party will have to march."

Mr Foulkes said the party will have to make some hard decisions about cooperating and

participating in a process that is supposed to be democratic.

He also said that the FNM never opposed independence, but did not want the Bahamas to attain independence under the PLP government because it knew "they couldn't handle it."

He charged that the problems facing the country today were made and grew up under the PLP government and the seeds of destruction were sown in 1968 when internal problems developed within the PLP.

He accused Government of wrecking Freeport, which has the potential of employing all of the country's unemployed and which has not yet recovered fully from the mistakes made by the PLP government.

He claimed that in 1968-69, while he was Minister responsible for aviation, Government agreed to give Bahamas Airways several routes from the Bahamas abroad, including a New York route, but reneged on its agreement and gave it to Bahamas World Airlines, owned by the controversial Everette Bannister.

He said another Canadian millionaire investor had built a hotel on an out island but was chased from the country for giving FNMs a ride on his airplane.

He said the investor has friends in the Canadian legislature and Prime Minister

Sir Lynden Pindling was not fooling anyone in Canada during his recent official visit there for talks with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

He said Government killed the captive insurance industry by passing stupid legislation, causing the captive insurance market to flee to Bermuda and the Cayman Islands.

He said Government is just now courting the captive insurance market back to the Bahamas and the Prime Minister is travelling all over the world seeking investment, which the FNM told him long

ago was needed for the country to develop.

He said after the PLP won the government in 1967, the Bahamas was the most sought after nation by world capitals, but today the Prime Minister is going with hat in hand to Hong Kong and Japan seeking "just one more hotel" to be built and "just one more ship" to be registered in the Bahamas by investors.

Mr Foulkes was one of several speakers at the party's second "Report to the people," rally last night at the S.C. McPherson Junior High School auditorium.

Other speakers included Carmichael MP Frank Watson, Opposition Leader Kendal Isaacs, Bamboo Town can-

didate in the last election attorney Tennyson Wells, Alvy Penn, candidate for Englerston, Torchbearers Vice Chairman Melvin Grant, and Rudy McSweeney, candidate for Yellow Elder.

Mr Penn criticized the taxes being imposed on the people and the high rates being charged by BEC, Batelco and the Water and Sewerage Corporation.

Mr Watson said the young people will bear the brunt of the failure of Government's economic policy for the last 10 years, which is leading the country to a welfare state.

He said the people were assured of an adequate supply of telephones by mid- 1983 in the last budget communication, but the picture looks very bleak as it is now six months past 1983 and there are not enough telephones available.

He said in 1981, Government said that a team was working on the problems of the young people but in 1982, the Minister of Youth came to the House asking for a select committee to study the problem.

Mr Watson said that in the 1983 budget there was mention of a police and fire station to be

built in the Carmichael constituency this year, but the Minister of Home Affairs now says that funds won't permit it to be constructed this year and that it may be built next year.

He also scoffed at the Prime Minister's trips to the Far East and Canada saying that Sir Lynden needs to visit Washington for talks with President Ronald Reagan.

He said the two nations are yet to reach an agreement for American use of Bahamian territory for military bases.

Mr Wells told the rally that the FNM is growing because of disappointment with the PLP government in the country where 20 to 45 per cent of the people are motivated by nothing but fear.

Recently named chairman of the party's Finance Committee, Mr Wells said that the party must raise plenty of funds to do a lot of work.

He noted that the PLP announced they spent \$1.2 million in just seven weeks of campaigning for the 1982 general elections while the FNM has not had that much money for the past two years.

GOVERNMENT-TEACHER ROW OVER EDUCATION POLICY CONTINUES

Minister's Charge of 'Subversion'

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jul 83 p 1

[Excerpts]

WHILE ACADEMIC freedom must be encouraged, subversion in government classrooms and institutions must not be tolerated, Minister of Education Darrell Rolle told his audience at Clifford Park at the schools' independence ceremony yesterday.

Minister Rolle said that during the first decade of independence, "notable strides" have been made economically, socially and politically, but he noted several negative factors that existed.

"In the last decade many utterly disreputable factions began to emerge in our schools," said the Minister of Education. "These have cheated children of role models, turned even good teachers into robots and given licence to thug-like parents to intimidate teachers who dare to adhere to the proven path of instruction and discipline."

"It is no secret that there are prophets among us preaching ideologies which are alien to the Bahamian way of life and are deliberately intended to be disruptive of our governmental institutions." Mr Rolle called for principals and teachers

"who hold sacred the welfare of the children entrusted to their charge" to intensify their efforts and take the lead in teaching the "basic principles of our governmental institutions as well as our sound economic and political systems."

"While academic freedom must be encouraged, subversion of the government and our governmental institution in the classroom must not be tolerated," he said. "The students are the losers, as more often than not, they end up bitter and hostile towards a system they just do not know."

"Consequently, they become ineffective citizens, cynical and distrustful of the system, and apathetic towards public affairs in general."

"My government believes that good teachers are a precious resource," Mr Rolle told the gathering at Clifford Park. "Teachers have a grave responsibility; they are in a sense responsible for molding the minds and lives of our young people - our future leaders."

"I implore all teachers, whether they be principals or classroom teachers, to be shining examples of love, patience and honesty."

Teacher Rally

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 2 Jul 83 pp 1, 11

[Excerpt]

IN AN open show of defiance, over 100 teachers burned a copy of the General Orders at a rally outside their union's Bethel Avenue headquarters last night. General Orders are the regulations that govern the civil service.

The teachers, who were celebrating the end of the school year, encircled an open barrel and, singing "We shall overcome," took turns lighting pages from the Orders book.

Bahamas Union of Teachers President Leonard Archer was quoted as saying: "This is the destruction of the last vicious relic of colonialism."

Teachers were invited to the rally to listen to speeches on various issues, including a salary proposal from Government, and then to party. The press was not invited.

However, one person who attended the rally told The Tribune that union president Archer brought teachers up to date on Government's latest pay offer. The person said teachers voted to conditionally accept

the pay increase, even though the largest raise - believed to be for principals - would be about \$1,250 for this year. It is understood that teachers will get their increases July 15 backdated to January 1. In 1984 the scale of increases will range from 7 1/2 to 4.3 percent. In 1985 the scale will increase from 6 1/2 to 2 percent.

The person also quoted Mr Archer as saying he was in a "catch 22 situation" because if he advised teachers not to accept the pay increase, he would be blamed if they didn't get a raise. He also said if he advised teachers to accept Government's offer, he would be blamed for not agitating for bigger raises.

Mr Archer said he has heard disturbing rumours that a large number of teachers are to be transferred to other schools in September, and told teachers they have to decide whether they will accept the transfers.

"The general impression was that they wouldn't," The Tribune was told.

Archer Speech to Union

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 6 Jul 83 pp 1, 14

[Text]

BAHAMAS Union of Teachers President Leonard Archer urged teachers to seize this moment to rid themselves of the "iniquitous" transfer system and invited his listeners to stand with him against "the rising tide of oppression in this country."

The union leader addressed the annual general meeting of the Bahamas Union of Teachers in a full Commonwealth Room of the Nassau Beach Hotel last night.

Michael Manley, former prime minister of Jamaica who now leads Jamaica's opposition and is vice president of the National Workers Union, was guest speaker.

It would appear, said Mr Archer, that "the office of the Ministry will use the non-recruitment of teachers to carry out the most massive transfer of teachers in recent history. Those transfers that are already known suggest that officers of the ministry will use the system to victimise those teachers that they do not like."

"It is particularly galling," he said, "that while classroom teachers are transferred at the drop of a hat, principals appointed by the Ministry of Education are allowed to mash up schools year after year." Sandilands School and the Central Secondary School in

San Salvador were given as examples.

"In both schools," continued Mr Archer, "the Ministry of Education officials attempt to blame the teachers for the obvious failings of the principals, and as vice principals and teachers are changed annually, the maladministration continues."

"I have suggested to teachers before that the only way to rid our education system of this iniquitous transfer system is for all teachers to openly refuse to accept them. Since there appears to be a larger number of transfers than usual this year, I am suggesting that we seize this

moment to rid ourselves of this yoke from around our necks."

The Minister of Education, said Mr Archer, "would better serve education if he dealt with these matters rather than bad mouthing teachers at every public speaking opportunity he gets."

Said Mr Archer: "We have reached the point where loyalty to the state has been corrupted to mean loyalty to the government of the day. Where teachers who dare question the actions of the state are called intellectual subversives and are accused of the subversion of the government and our government institutions in the classrooms."

"My sisters and brothers," said the union president, "fear stalks this land, and 1984, both in terms of the calendar and the concept as used by the author George Orwell, is almost here."

There is today the 'official view,' he said, and anyone who holds views contrary to the official view is singled out for punishment. "Anyone who doubts what I am saying should read again the speech delivered by the Minister of Education to the youth of this nation on Friday of last week."

"Last week Mr Rolle said, and I quote: 'It is no secret that there are prophets among us preaching ideologies which are alien to the Bahamian way of life and are deliberately intended to be disruptive of our government institutions. While

academic freedom must be encouraged, subversion of the government and our government institutions in the classroom must not be tolerated.'"

"These shrill cries from the Minister of Education are echoed and re-echoed by other ministers of government," said the speaker. "They are symptomatic of a colossal failure by the Minister of Education to transform an ineffective education bureaucracy into a well-oiled machine capable of delivering to the Bahamian child a quality education."

"The Minister is prepared to blame his failings on a small group of intellectual subversives, namely officers and members of the Bahamas Union of Teachers, who have had the mercy to point out his failings and suggest to him the methods to correct them," President Archer said.

"I suggest that as the evidence of his failure mounts his cries will become more shrill and persecutions which have already started will be intensified."

There is no such thing as an alien ideology in the Bahamas within the context of the Minister's remarks, he said.

"All ideologies and political models are alien including the Westminster model of parliamentary democracy, since none of them originated in the Bahamas."

Mr Archer described the Ministry of Education as being in a shambles and said: "The capacity of the Ministry to think and plan ahead, which was never very great, has virtually disappeared and the Ministry is in a state, as a former president of this union would say, of a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there."

"I have never in my relatively long experience seen such an abysmal performance by the Ministry of Education. According to the best information available the Ministry of Education has not recruited any new teachers this year." He said he was told that only five new teachers would be produced by the College of the Bahamas in 1983.

"If these figures are accurate then September 1983 promises to be one of the most chaotic Septembers we will have seen in recent times."

Mr Archer ended with the words of Brutus: "There is a tide in the affairs of men which, taken at the flood, leads on to fortune." Omitted, all the voyage of their life is bound in shallows and miseries. On such a full sea are we now afloat, we must take the current when it serves or lose our venture."

"Ladies and gentlemen," said the speaker, "I believe we are now at that moment in time. I invite you to stand with me against the rising tide of oppression in this country."

PAPER REPORTS GROWING UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIMES RULING PLP

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 4 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Marcia Bethell]

[Text]

DURING a Budget debate in the House of Assembly in 1976 Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Hanna introduced a 10-year economic plan for the country. Included in this was the promise of "full employment" for all by 1980. Three years has passed since this deadline, yet again this year thousands of young Bahamians have joined those thousands already on the unemployment lines.

Over six thousand students were graduated from high school last month and they all hope to find a job. In 1978 figures show that the country's work force totalled 90,000. The unemployment figure at that time was 26,000 or 30%. In 1982 the Prime Minister put the unemployment figure at 12 or 13.5%.

An 18-year-old, who was graduated from a government school last month with RSA and Pitman passes, was able to find a part time job as a shelf boy at a local foodstore. He is paid \$34 a week, lives at home and has to help support a family of six.

The young man applied for a job at several hotels, but has been told there are no jobs. He now hopes to join the Defence Force. He spends most of his time sitting on the blocks or playing basketball.

Another young man, also graduated this year, has no intention of even looking for a

job. But, according to him, he's not broke and he's not worrying.

"I'm not checking for no job. I got money in my pocket and I'm straight. I know plenty people who have jobs but they are broke right now," the young man said, walking off with his giant cassette player sitting on his shoulder.

A group of young girls, sitting on a porch to pass the time, feel that all the dreams they had during high school have been taken from them.

"We stay home all day with nothing to do. We've given up on our dreams and feel as if there is nothing else to do except get pregnant," the CC Sweeting graduate said, looking at her friend who is expecting a child in September. She is not married.

Many of the unemployed youth in the country today depend on their parents for support and many of them are angry because of this.

"I'm qualified to do secretarial work, hotel work or anything with my hands. I can do needle work, even scrub floors, why can't I get a job?" the young girl asked. I want to be independent, but I still have to depend on my parents." She also has passes in BJC, RSA and Pitman examinations. She lives at home, a small wooden house, with eight brothers and sisters, only one of them

employed.

"When I was in school I had so many dreams. I thought I would go places and do things. Now I know they were only dreams and I won't ever reach them," the girl said. "I have applied for jobs and even gone to my representative who did nothing except turn me around."

A young pregnant girl was graduated from school three years ago. She was able to find two part-time jobs in three years. Now that she is pregnant she is not able to find even one job. She is depending on her parents and boyfriend to support her and the baby.

During an interview on Mary's Notebook in 1974 the Prime Minister said that Bahamians had become "too selective" in the types of jobs they wanted. The unemployment figure then was 8.6%. In 1975 the figure rose to 28.8%. In 1976 women topped the unemployment figures with a 27% figure while men made up 16% of the unemployed. In 1980 the unemployment figure was estimated at almost 30%.

Just recently the Free National Movement called unemployment the most "acute and dangerous" problem facing the nation today. They said the problem is one for which the PLP government is responsible and one for which they will have to face the "inevitable reckoning."

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT NOTES BUSINESS OPTIMISM

Nassau THE TRIBUNE in English 7 Jul 83 pp 1, 13

[Article by Dilette Thompson]

[Text]

THE EIGHTH annual survey of economic trends, conducted by the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce, "revealed considerable optimism about business prospects" for next year.

Over 93 percent of business firms answering the questionnaire saw an improvement, or no change, in their businesses while six percent expected a downturn, Bahamas Chamber of Commerce President Shervin Thompson announced today.

The 122 business firms that responded, out of 360 member firms, included a cross-section of the New Providence private business sector. This included wholesalers, retailers, construction, real estate, banking, professional services, hotels, insurance and manufacturing.

Of the above Tourism, which comprises 70 to 75 percent of the economy, recorded the largest degree of optimism. Sixty-one percent of hoteliers predicted an increase in business, 33 percent saw no change, and six percent expected a downturn in business.

The employment prospect for next year produced the most negative forecast, with as much as 56 percent of businesses

predicting a downturn in employment, 12 percent predicting an increase, and 31 percent predicting no change.

"Permit me to make it unequivocally clear that the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce is not only concerned about unemployment, but is vigorously pursuing methodologies to alleviate this pressing problem," said Mr Thompson.

"We feel that the encouragement of genuine foreign investors combined with local patriotic investors can, within a reasonably short period, provide meaningful employment for all who desire to work," he said.

Mr Thompson said this would require some "bold initiatives on behalf of Government to get the message across to its other agencies that the positive stance taken by the Ministry of Economic Affairs towards foreign investment should be supported throughout." He said that the Ministry by its swift action in dealing with investment proposals, has demonstrated its desire to work closely with the Chamber in solving the

country's unemployment problems.

The ownership of the 122 respondents was divided, 56.6 percent locally owned, 29.5 percent foreign owned, and 13.9 percent mixed ownership. The 122 companies combined employed 4,675 persons, with an annual payroll of nearly \$58 million. As a group they forecast employing an additional 65 persons in 1983 and 75 persons in 1984.

The Chamber president called for an even greater response next year to the questionnaire over this year's 26 percent rate, although this figure represents twice the response to the 1982 survey.

The survey questionnaire also asked business firms what economic, political, legal or other factors (local or international) they believed contributed to the predicted improvement or worsening of the various economic trends.

Negative factors included uncertainty created by government's policy on land ownership by foreigners, "as evidenced by the failure either to declare the Immovable Property Act in force, withdraw it, or offer and amended version;"

slowness of government bureaucracy to grant required permits, particularly involving foreign investment or expatriate workers; high local crime rates; and higher local taxes.

Also mentioned were (employment) failure of private employers and Government to hire adequate numbers of school leavers, and high birth rate; unfavourable image in certain elements of the foreign press; and continuing economic recession in some major markets for tourism and foreign investment.

Positive factors most frequently mentioned were: improvements in the world economy, with lower interest rates and oil prices; more efficient management of Bahamian businesses, with intensified promotional, marketing and advertising campaigns; (Tourism) new airline services, more economical travel packages, and more dynamic efforts by the Ministry of Tourism.

Also mentioned were continued political stability combined with tax-haven status;

growth of more affluent middle-class with greater entrepreneurial instincts; and (Construction) increased demand for houses and office space and government initiatives in providing low-cost housing.

Suggestions were also made as to what steps government and/or the private sector can take to mitigate the negative factors affecting business growth and unemployment.

Among them, Government taking steps to reduce "bureaucratic delay and red-tape," Government granting various types of financial incentives to businesses that make positive efforts to employ school leavers, more emphasis on vocational training for young Bahamians, and more emphasis on labour-intensive activities such as assembly and manufacturing, as opposed to retailing and wholesaling.

Mr Thompson thanked the College of the Bahamas Marketing students, Soldier Road campus, who were responsible for the increase in response to the survey, which was consolidated by the Department of Statistics.

CSO: 3298/796

FIGUEIREDO'S OPPOSITION TO MALUF CANDIDACY DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jul 83 p 4

[Article by Carlos Chagas: "Figueiredo Getting Ready to Stop Maluf"]

[Text] In Cleveland, Gen Joao Figueiredo began to learn about what is happening in Brazil, more through talks with Gen Octavio Medeiros than through the desultory conversation of congressmen and others making a point to speak with him. In regard to the presidential succession, he did not like what he heard. Although he never did accept, he now accepts even less the candidacy of Paulo Maluf, because the former Sao Paulo governor did not abide by the restrictions and recommendations he left for cooling off political campaigning during his absence from Brazil. Now that he knows about Maluf's campaigning from state to state and its results, when the president returns in the middle of August he will resume his coordination of the succession and, more importantly, will express in no uncertain terms his opposition to the Maluf possibility, directly or through an authorized and qualified spokesman. He will make clear his decision and his determination that he has no intention of being succeeded by the ex-governor.

This is a decision, not a mere inclination or speculation, transmitted to Brasilia this weekend as the first result of Figueiredo's gradual return to contact with political issues. The view from Cleveland reveals the president's intention to put a stop to Paulo Maluf's venture once and for all.

Along with this information, it has been possible in recent hours to get an idea of the viewpoint on the political situation that is being conveyed to the president by the SNI [National Intelligence Service] chief, and his first reactions.

It is mentioned, for instance, that the president has no intention of speeding up choice of his successor. January continues to be the most likely period for announcement of his candidate, after he has had more extensive contacts with PDS [Social Democratic Party] members. Only some new or important event would accelerate the strategy, bearing in mind, however, that the so-called PDS dissidence will have little opportunity to be heard. His soundings will bypass the opinion of the apparent rebels--if there are any left, as the intention of Figueiredo would be to reduce their numbers as much as possible, since it is no secret that most of them lean toward Paulo Maluf.

Besides the behavior of the ex-governor, which he considers out of order, Figueiredo has been learning about the comportment of the other candidates.

Slowly, so as not to disturb his recovery, his first reactions are beginning to take shape, starting with the decision that the time has come to face up to Paulo Maluf, who, if not blocked immediately, will complicate matters later. The president does not intend, under any circumstances, to give up control of the succession process or wash his hands of it, turning over the exclusive and final decision to political forces. There is still time, if wisely used, to conduct the counter-marches leading to high-level agreement and choice of an acceptable name.

Another aspect of the situation as viewed from the shores of Lake Erie is in regard to the behavior of the acting president, who is also a candidate. The loyalty, the ability and the style of Aureliano Chaves have been stressed. Figueiredo knows that his replacement froze his campaign and has complied fully with the strategy of letting the succession issue hibernate until his return. At the same time, moreover, he surely will be told that Aureliano is conducting himself true to his own manner, different from that of the president, although without wishing to accentuate the contrast. To the degree that the difference in governing style becomes evident, the former Minas Gerais governor will not really be acquiring credentials as a candidate, although as an acting president he has gained respect. His visit with former President Geisel during the first days of his temporary period in office will not go unnoticed, nor will his trips and statements regarding urgent problems such as the floods in the South and the drought in the Northeast. It is not yet clear what will be the reaction to turning over to the National Security Council coordination of the reconstruction plan for the regions affected by the floods, since SEPLAN [Planning Secretariat], after all, is the ministry responsible for coordinating the others. However, as Figueiredo himself asked Gen Danilo Venturini to announce the reasons that led him to adopt the new wage increase decree-law shortly before he left, it establishes an acceptable precedent for Aureliano.

The third candidate about whom the president has been kept informed is his preference, Mario Andreazza. He knows that he has complied literally with the restrictions regarding interruption of campaigning and his search for PDS support. He will be pleased with that and other positions of the interior minister, including that in which, in all his functional statements, he does not tire of emphasizing that the decisions for this or that administrative or political solution are his. It was that way in the South and it will be that way this week in Recife, when he will speak in the presence of Aureliano Chaves. Andreazza adopted behavior that will accredit him for future consideration, although he knows that, as a result of his inactivity, he has lost some ground to Paulo Maluf. This can be recovered after a while, should the president's inclination continue to be expressed indirectly and, in January, officially.

In summary, Gen Joao Figueiredo is not isolated or out of touch with national events, 2 weeks after his operation. Of course, the time he devotes to hearing and analyzing the information brought to him by the SNI chief is limited, and certain positions which he will adopt upon reassuming office are still undecided. But these do not include the succession question: Paulo Maluf will be the target of buckshot and Mario Andreazza's garden will be well watered.

S&T ACCORD FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER FROM JAPAN UNDER STUDY

Brasilia CORREIO BRAZILIENSE in Portuguese 17 Jul 83 p 13

[Text] The Brazilian Government has just received the first indications that Japan is willing to transfer sophisticated technology to Brazil, which will be the subject of an agreement to be signed during the visit of President Figueiredo to Tokyo. The subject began being discussed 10 years ago, but only now have the Japanese made a specific reply. The basic text for a Science and Technology Agreement between Brazil and Japan is being studied by both foreign offices, which expect to conclude negotiations before Figueiredo's visit, an Itamarati [Foreign Affairs Ministry] source reported.

President Figueiredo's first trip abroad after reassuming office--within 30 days, according to Gen Octavio Medeiros' estimate--will be to Japan. Before leaving for Cleveland, the president made it clear to a mission of Japanese businessmen from Keidaren that he will make a point of traveling to Tokyo at the end of September. The date has not yet been set, but meetings between the two governments are proceeding smoothly.

Robotics

Brazil would like to obtain Japanese technology in the fields of energy, health, nutrition, information retrieval, robotics, telecommunications, laser utilization, agro-industry and animal husbandry, among others. The Japanese Government had appeared to be reluctant about signing an agreement regarding science and technology, alleging that the agreement for technical cooperation, which dates from 1970, already provides for assistance to Brazilian entities involved in technological matters. As a matter of fact, some institutions, such as the CNPq [National Council for Scientific and Technological Development], the Industrial Technology Secretariat of the MIC [Ministry of Industry and Commerce] and university research institutions have cooperative programs with semi-private Japanese institutions, but existing legislation does not provide the Brazilian technicians access to the principal Japanese agency, IST, directly responsible to the prime minister's office.

With a new agreement, Brazil will be able to receive substantial support for its research and learn new industrial techniques such as use of refined ceramics to replace some raw materials and even metals, which is one of the recent Japanese technological breakthroughs. During the visit of Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki to

Brasilia in June of last year, technology transfer was one of the subjects discussed about which there was no agreement. Whereas Itamarati spokesman Bernardo Pericas maintained that there were negotiations in this area, the Japanese spokesman, Tatzo Watanabe, during a press conference at the Hotel Nacional, denied there was any agreement for technological exchange under discussion. The uncertainty became public and this week Minister Pericas, when reminded of the episode, commented with satisfaction: "Events have proven that we were right."

8834

CSO: 3342/163

REPORTAGE ON INSTALLATION OF ANTARCTIC RESEARCH STATION

Mobile Station

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 Jul 83 p 38

[Text] Brazil's first research station in the Antarctic, the "Commandant Ferraz," will be ready in September and 2 months later will be installed at the South Pole. This will enable the Brazilian Navy to conduct research in the region, taking advantage of the next southern summer, when the average temperature is 20 degrees below zero, although the station is capable of withstanding as much as 60 degrees below zero.

The first project of the "Commander Ferraz," which will be mobile, is installation of eight modules of special containers that will occupy an area of 250 square meters and can house 12 persons under environmental conditions of 20 degrees Centigrade. The station can be expanded in later summers, depending upon the needs of the scientific programs that will gradually be established in the polar region.

As soon as the Antarctic thaw begins, the polar ship "Barao de Teffe" will begin transporting the eight modules where the power generator, water heating and treatment plant, communications station, laboratories and living area--with dormitories, bathrooms, kitchens, recreation center and mess hall--will be installed. There will also be buildings for storage and a garage.

At the pole, the "Barao de Teffe" will remain at anchor off the Antarctic peninsula while the containers are being carried by a navy barge to where the Brazilian base will be set up: Elephant Island, Port Lockroy or Adelaide Island. The choice will depend upon the operational and climatic conditions prevailing in the region at the time of unloading.

"The station can be assembled in 24 hours," asserts Simon Cuglovici, technical manager of SAEF Railway Equipment Ltd--the company that will build the station--adding that the modules will be mounted on wheels and runners. This, according to him, will facilitate relocating the station, which can be hauled by a small tractor to other areas of greater scientific interest.

The Brazilian base will be the first mobile one in the Antarctic, unlike those of other countries, which are fixed--such as Poland's, made of wood, "requiring that carpenters be sent annually to make repairs." Moreover, the modules are equipped with hydraulic mechanisms to facilitate loading and unloading.

Precisely because of the innovative nature of this project, Simon refuses to give further details, fearing that it will be copied by foreign companies. He limited himself to saying that the project was based upon the specifications of the invitation to bid made by the Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources and that the cost will be 144,623,000 cruzeiros. The contract will be signed Tuesday at the Navy Ministry in the presence of Adm Maximiano da Fonseca.

Command Not Settled

It has not yet been decided whether the commander of the station, which will do research studies in collaboration with USP [Sao Paulo University] scientists, will be military or civilian. It is certain that, in addition to a physician and three scientists, there will be a cook, a driver, a mechanic and other personnel of the support group on the base. There will be 40 Brazilians who will stay in Antarctica from 30 to 40 days.

At the end of this period, the "Barao de Teffe," after performing other tasks in the region of the peninsula, will return to pick up the team. The modules and equipment will remain there until the southern summer of 1985, since previous to that time the Antarctic ice prevents navigation.

Location Announced

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 31 Jul 83 p 19

[Text] Rio de Janeiro--Brazil will establish its Antarctic station in the Palmer Archipelago, east of the Neumayer Channel, in the same region where there are several other stations, including that of West Germany, Adm Mucio Piragibe de Bakker, secretary of the Interministerial Commission for Ocean Resources (CIRM), announced during an exclusive interview given O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO at Rio de Janeiro State University.

According to the admiral, the region of the archipelago will be proposed and analyzed at the next meeting of the CIRM, scheduled for 24 August, at which Navy Minister Adm Maximiano da Fonseca will preside. Installation of the station will facilitate the cooperation that the Brazilian Antarctic program will receive from other countries.

The Palmer Archipelago has favorable conditions for installing the modules of the Brazilian station, which will be made by SAEF, a Sao Paulo railway equipment company. The cost of the project is about 140 million cruzeiros.

Adm Mucio Piragibe said one of the factors contributing to the choice of the Palmer Archipelago was the fact that the climate in that region is more moderate, for which reason other stations are already located there, such as the "Artovsky" of Poland and those of Argentina, Chile and the United States.

Proximity of the other scientific bases will facilitate cooperation that various countries will give Brazil in conducting its Antarctic program, and the exact location for placing the modules will be analyzed starting in August. During that

month the CIRM will also begin the planning stage for the expedition itself that Brazil will make to the Antarctic after December, with two ships, the "Barao de Teffe," which will carry the station modules, and the "Professor Besnard," oceanographic vessel of Sao Paulo University. "The Palmer Archipelago has good conditions for research, which is basic in Antarctica and which justifies the choice," said Admiral Mucio.

The CIRM secretary also said that with a station in the Antarctic it will be able to learn much more about Brazil's climate, raising the prospect of making longer-range forecasts about floods, frosts and other meteorological phenomena.

8834

CSO: 3342/163

ACCORD DESIGNED TO INCREASE TRADE SIGNED WITH IRAN

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 25 Jul 83 p 12

[Text] London--A Brazilian trade delegation of 70 persons, led by CACEX [Foreign Trade Department] Director Carlos Viacava, left Iran yesterday after signing an agreement designed to increase trade between the two countries to \$1 billion annually, it was announced by the Iranian news agency IRNA, according to a report by the British REUTERS agency.

The agreement provides for Brazil to import the equivalent of \$600 million from Iran and export to it the equivalent of \$400 million. IRNA cites Viacava as having asserted that Brazil will export to Iran sugar, soybean oil and industrialized products, while it will buy dates, pistachio nuts, caviar and handicrafts.

Petroleum

Trade with Iran dropped off quite a bit in 1982 and Brazil exported only \$65,816,000 there. But petroleum purchases were resumed in December and for January through May of this year Iran has a trade surplus of \$39 million (Brazil's exports: \$139,669,000; Brazil's imports: \$178,983,000).

According to CACEX data, Iran is now the sixth largest supplier of petroleum to Brazil (5.30 percent of total volume imported). Overall, the country is the ninth largest exporter to Brazil, which buys 2.84 percent of all imports there. Meanwhile, Iran absorbed 1.66 percent of Brazil's total exports. Cast iron and other iron and steel products represent almost 50 percent of Brazilian sales, with soybean oil ranking second.

The mission to Iran includes representatives of both the public and private sectors and, according to REUTERS, some Brazilian businessmen remained there to continue talking with Iranian authorities about trade opportunities for new business.

8834

CSO: 3342/163

LARGEST EVER REFORESTATION CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

Havana GRANMA in Spanish 14 Jun 83 p 3

[Article by Raisa Pages]

[Text] The biggest reforestation campaign in the country's history is being undertaken at this time by workers who are dedicated to the ultimate mission of renewing a resource indispensable to human beings: forests.

Between now and 30 September more than 105 million trees of the 130 scheduled for this year should be planted. As will be noted the bulk of the reforestation program takes place in June, July, August and September.

These next few days before Forest Workers Day--next 21 June--should be utilized to the maximum, since in June 42.3 million trees should be planted. Never have our country's tree nurseries been so full of seedlings as now: 82.2 million having been produced up to the end of May.

Two tasks now claim the fullest attention in this great reforestation movement: the application of preventive measures against infestations and diseases of the seedlings grown in the nurseries and the preparation of 34.2 million hectares of land for this first semester.

As of the end of May 17.8 million acres have already been prepared and at the same time in other provinces large amounts of earth are being moved which gives the impression that they will be completed within the given schedule if a special effort is made this month.

The national forest management stresses that the quality of land preparation is a decisive factor in later survival of the trees. It is the responsibility of the engineers and forestry technicians to take care that the big marathons do not invite violation of the stipulated work rules.

Summing up the situation, the Camagueyans are performing satisfactorily in land preparation. They report 73 percent of their goal until June already met, suitable for planting. In Florida, for example, this work was already finished.

Pinar del Rio, a province of large plantings, shows a favorable rate, registering 61 percent of land already prepared and 2,585 hectares in preparation.

Holguin and Guantanamo are also ahead with 72 and 62 percent of their plans up to June. With regard to Las Tunas, which has already completed the program, one must say that because of the minimum figures fixed for this stage (the Eastern areas have their plantings at a different time), it is not included in the survey of those who certainly now had big goals in soil preparation.

The specialists point out that the Villaclarenos--even when they report a low percentage in land prepared for planting--deserve special mention for the quality in this task and the strict compliance with the technical requirements.

The foresters, helped by a great movement of the masses generated by UJC [Union of Young Communists] and the mass organizations with the well aimed orientation of the party and the government, face a beautiful task: to strengthen the forests to erase the results of indiscriminate cutting which, during almost 4 centuries, we inherited up to the triumph of the revolution.

9678

CSO: 5000/2041

ANNUAL REPORT ISSUED FOR AUTONOMOUS PORT

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 23 Jun 83 pp 1,4

[Article by Andre Jean Vidal: "The Autonomous Port Aspires To Be the Outpost of Foreign Trade"]

[Text] As it does every year at the same time, the public affairs department of the autonomous port of Guadeloupe published a brochure on its 1982 activities.

The 42-page document, richly illustrated with photos, graphs and tables, surveys the matter and answers the question about the performance of this dynamic, economic entity, the autonomous port of Guadeloupe.

The autonomous port of Guadeloupe is made up of two liner berths, nine commercial docks--two RO/RO docks, six specialized docks (for rum, sugar, petroleum and grain) and a container terminal equipped with two 40-ton PACECO cranes.

The autonomous port of Guadeloupe is not only the seventh largest autonomous French port but it is also the largest port of the French Antilles.

Finally, as the officials of this institution love to say, the autonomous port of Guadeloupe is "the outpost of French foreign trade, the hyphen between two continents."

To understand how it works, we should know that the autonomous port is a government entity that administers the region's trading ports: the port of Pointe-a-Pitre/Jarry, the port of Basse-Terre, the Folle-Anse pier at Marie-Galante and the Bas-du-Fort port for tourist activities, an exceptional achievement.

The autonomous port of Guadeloupe was created in 1975 and is governed by the 1965 law on autonomous ports. It was a deliberate policy of the government of the time and its successors not to interfere with this institution other than to set up government entities, endowed with legal status and financial autonomy, under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and, like all public service institutions, under the financial supervision of the government.

Its revenues come from port duties, taxes and various fees as well as rents, the use of its equipment, state subsidies and grants from local governments for the work which must be done to ports within its jurisdiction.

The Impact of the Economic Recession

The autonomous port of Guadeloupe, like the other ports of the mother country, has been negatively affected by the worldwide economic recession.

As the report on activities pointed out, despite the efforts of various governments on behalf of the overseas departments and the financial assistance in the form of subsidies and tax credits, the trade deficit of the Guadeloupe region has increased. That, of course, had an impact on the foreign trade transiting the autonomous port of Guadeloupe.

Thus, the amount of merchandise handled (in tons) decreased 2.8 percent (1,501,195 tons instead of 1,543,719 tons in 1981) excluding the fishing and provisioning sectors. This figure can be explained by a decrease in bulk goods and the almost total disappearance of two commodities: water (4,000 tons instead of 1,154,000 tons in 1981) and pozzolana (3,000 tons this year compared with 32,000 tons in 1981.)

Although imports have increased regularly by 4.6 percent (1,074,660 tons), exports have been affected by the faltering economy (-17.4 percent).

This caused a sizeable negative imbalance in the volume of exports and imports in tonnage: 50.23 percent in 1981; 36.69 percent for last year.

Although the port of Pointe-a-Pitre (including Folle-Anse and Jarry) handles 98 percent of the total traffic with 1,473,118 tons and is doing rather well, this cannot be said of Basse-Terre who decreased from 48.69 percent to 35.22 percent while its imports rose from 16,000 tons to 22,000 tons.

Another area merits attention: the large-scale container which was the topic of conversation when it was installed continues to show progress since the tonnage of containers handled for 1982 amounted to 673,400 net tons compared with 566,502 tons in 1981, a 19 percent increase.

The use of small container units (from 9 to 16 cubic meters) continues to decrease and the movement of empty containers still remains, as the report is obliged to say, "difficult to solve."

There is a constant increase in the bulk traffic handled by specific installations--imported clinker, sand, cereals and petroleum products, exported sugar, molasses, rum, cement, water and pozzolana (49.76 percent of the overall traffic (742,002 tons--405,341 tons of solids and 341,661 tons of liquids)--especially petroleum products. This is the price of progress and is responsible for the drain of foreign exchange.

A Disturbing Fluctuation in Traditional Goods; Trade With France Increases

Some products are characterized both by their method of processing and transportation. This is true of clinker, cement, water and sugar, which all require special handling equipment.

These specific commodities can be classed in three categories--those which have decreased, increased or remained somewhat the same.

The following imports have increased: lumber from the American continent (+8.82 percent) and general merchandise (+13 percent).

The following exports have increased: cement (+53.10 percent); sugar (+18 percent); fruits and vegetables (+32 percent); bananas (3.2 percent).

The following imports have decreased: cereals (-11.12 percent); sand (-12.6 percent) and fertilizers (-12.8 percent).

The following exports have decreased: flour (-50.5 percent); rum (-33.3 percent); water (-74 percent) and pozzolana (-90.19 percent), a catastrophe.

The two imports which showed great stability (less than 2 percent) are clinker (+1.8 percent) and petroleum products (+1.3 percent).

Trade with France increases every year and in 1982, it increased 5 percent.

Indeed, whether we determine it according to absolute amount (813,167 tons) or by relative value (54 percent of the overall tonnage), we must bow to the evidence--the ties are very close.

Despite a certain willingness in Guadeloupe, the integration of this overseas department into its natural geographic environment will not happen overnight. On the contrary, the figures speak for themselves since last year 48 percent of the total traffic was with the neighboring islands (732,000 tons); this year the figure is prophetic--down 43 percent (651,000 tons).

In addition, one-third of these exchanges are with the sister island and other French department of Martinique (260,000 tons); it supplies petroleum products to Guadeloupe (220,000 tons).

The contacts with French Guyana reflect redistribution (42,221 tons to the department) and the same is true of Saint-Martin and Saint Barthelemy (respectively 16,290 tons and 6,369 tons).

Trade with the EEC countries is decreasing (20,751 tons in 1981 and 7,880 tons in 1982). These countries found other markets and other suppliers with lower prices.

Passenger traffic and port use must be considered. We note that passenger traffic is almost wholly made up of tourists from cruise ships and this traffic increased 6.6 percent.

During the same period, 1,159 ships anchored in port (+5 percent), among them 78 liners (compared with 73 in 1981). Between 1981 and 1982, there was a 2 percent increase in net tonnage which rose from 2,805,516 tons to 2,859,909 tons.

Activity Down at the Jarry Terminal; Recreational Port of Bas-du-Fort Confirmed in Role as Base Port

Two recent additions, the Jarry terminal and the recreational port of Bas-du-Fort were treated separately in this report on activities.

Although the recreational port of Bas-du-Fort is fulfilling the expectations made when it was built, the same cannot be said of the Jarry terminal where the number of ships handled dropped dramatically: in 1981 - 93 ships and in 1982 - 69 ships.

We know the reasons for these disastrous figures: the ships with derricks no longer use the cranes although the autonomous port management offered to reduce the access fees.

To summarize rapidly, we should say that the number of shifts has decreased although there is an eight percent increase in the length of the shift and the number of movements per shift has increased substantially.

On 20 September 1982, two crane operators set a record for the number of movements per shift--194 movements in 7 hours and 10 minutes, a commercial rate of 27 movements and a pure speed rate of 32 movements per hour. The best score for handling a ship was achieved on the "Fort Saint Charles" in October 1982 (1,087 movements).

In 1982, the recreational port of Bas-du-Fort held two boating shows--"The Transatlantic Trade Winds" and "The Rum Route." According to

the evaluations made of these two shows, only the first held any interest for autonomous port activity.

Projects completed at the marina were expansion of the captain's office, construction of about 50 additional berths and construction of more service buildings.

The number of boats anchored or there temporarily did not vary much from last year to this year. The fleet based there tends to give preference to medium and large ships, ignoring small ones.

It is thought that the local fleet has achieved its equilibrium.

The work of the autonomous port is expanding toward Pointe Jarry where there is more room and a coastal area which can be developed in a variety of ways.

Pointe-a-Pitre and the old installations will be preserved but used more for tourist purposes and will extend to the current merchant wharfs.

On the whole, despite the difficulties of the times, it was a better year than expected for the autonomous port of Guadeloupe.

Will 1982 be "a reference year" as the editor of the report put it?

1982 Profits and Losses

<u>Type of Losses</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Use loss	210,941.49
Loss from previous fiscal years	421,161.81
Exceptional losses	2,755,284.10
Payments other than operating expenses	200,000.00
TOTAL	3,587,387.40

<u>Type of Profits</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Profits from previous fiscal years	48,584.97
Exceptional profits	1,091,112.94
Profits from equipment subsidies	2,000,196.00
TOTAL	3,189,893.91
Fiscal year loss	397,493.49
TOTAL	3,587,493.49

9479

CSO: 3219/41

NEW UD-FO LEADER EXPRESSES CONCERNS ON FISHING, SMIC

Pointe-a-Pitre FRANCE-ANTILLES in French 29 Jun 83 p 5

[Article by Nicomede Gervais: "A New Secretary General: Henri Vercautrin"]

[Excerpt] On Sunday, 26 June 1983, a sunny day and a splendid sea did not tempt the trade union members of the UD-FO [Departmental Union - Workers' Force] of Guadeloupe. This more than 20-year old union chose that day to hold its 11th congress at the Holiday Inn of Gosier. Although the temperature outside was comfortable, the atmosphere was somewhat charged in the conference room. This very certainly helped elect Mr Henri Vercautrin as secretary general, replacing Mr Regent Amelius, the outgoing secretary general. Mr Vercautrin was chosen by common consent for his diplomacy and his deep understanding of trade union activity. The UD-FO had to find a man who could neutralize the internal and external attacks; moreover, he was the assistant secretary general. Important issues were touched on but not studied thoroughly. The outgoing secretary general's report was read and approved by most of those present but Mr Regent Amelius who lives in Basse-Terre was criticized for often being rather removed from the areas of tension. However, there was a group on the scene which acted. Mr Henri Vercautrin from the Pointoise region was elected for 2 years.

Two Issues: Fishing and Social Security

Mr Henri Vercautrin did not want to go deeply into the fishing problem since, as he pointed out, the ninth plan provided an entire system for the fishermen of the department. The Workers' Force believes that this system should be worked out in close concertation with the fishermen themselves. The UD-FO has noted that very often these programs are prepared far away and are not appropriate for those for whom they were made.

Mr Vercautrin pointed out, on the subject of the incident with the fishermen, that the UD-FO supported the fishermen and deplored the tendentious intervention of the subprefect who saw a political dimension in the fishermen's action which was not there. According to Mr Vercautrin, the subprefect tried to penalize Mr Ferdinand Quillin, the head of the private sector who is both a trade union member and a politician.

The UD-FO has begun to rally its troops for the elections to the social security board on 19 October 1983. Mr Vercautrin explained this mobilization by the fact that during the mediation board elections, the UD-FO was not properly organized. Now, the union is moving to the forefront to be present in all areas so that the results reflect the representation of the Workers' Force in the department.

The new secretary general felt that social security was a worker's benefit. However, the government budgeting system was trying to make social security a kind of assistance. In the past, even the lawmaker thought of it as a way to tamper with the solidarity of the working class. Mr Vercautrin added that the wage earner was covered against all risks by paying a single fee. He continued that the government was currently attacking the workers' benefits. The Workers' Force, he specified, was going to work to improve the situation.

UD-FO, In Second Place Among Trade Unions

Mr Henri Vercautrin stated that the UD-FO was the second largest trade union of Guadeloupe. The Workers' Force, he stated, did not get involved in sterile agitation. It used all the negotiating means at its disposal to resolve conflicts. It called a strike, he observed, when all doors were closed and all possibilities exhausted. Mr Vercautrin stressed this by saying that the UD-FO would not make the workers lose a day of work. He planned to fight to eliminate the discrepancy between the SMIC [interoccupational minimum growth wage] of Guadeloupe and the mother country.

This will be a major issue for the UD-FO.

The UD-FO has 40 chapters and more than 1,200 members. It has close ties with the national Workers' Force, the parent union. The chapters are autonomous.

This trade union is concerned with the problems of fishermen, hotel business, wage earners, social justice in the department and economic, agricultural and industrial structures which could be set up to give Guadeloupe's economy impetus.

9479

CSO: 3219/41

UNIVERSITY RECTOR OPPOSES SPECIAL COURTS

Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 Jul 83 pp 1, 2

[Text] A complete list of the names of university students, victims of acts of kidnappings or disappearances, was delivered by the rector of the University of San Carlos of Guatemala to the special envoy of the UN Commission for Human Rights, Viscount Corville de Culross, during a visit he made to the USAC.

"The university has constantly denounced these events, besides soliciting the cooperation of competent state authorities to carry on investigations that might cast light on them...", stated the rector to Viscount Culross, who for his part called these cases "horrifying."

Members of the university community who have been kidnapped or have disappeared during the past year extending from July 1982 to 30 June 1983 amount to almost 100.

These cases are deeply moving not only because of the pity felt for the victims of the kidnappings or disappearances but also because it is hard on their relatives by keeping them in a cruel state of uncertainty..., said Dr Meyer to the UN high official.

For his part, the representative of the United Nations asked several questions to the university authorities on various subjects, such as the special law tribunals, and asked for suggestions to improve their operation.

"The university has no suggestion to make in that regard, since it is of the opinion that such tribunals ought to be suppressed...", the rector told Viscount Culross.

The rector also added that in his opinion they must exhaust all lines of investigation relating to the numerous assassinations and cases of citizens who disappeared or were kidnapped during the previous government, among them students, professionals and workers from the USAC.

In like manner he made it known that when arrests are made, they immediately notify their relatives, that they inform them as to the reasons for losing their freedom, that the detainees be consigned as quickly as possible to competent courts and the lawyers be given better access in order to work for their defense.

BRIEFS

RETURN OF SALVADORAN UNIVERSITY SOUGHT--The Higher Council of the Central American University, the highest governing body of the Central American University Confederation, agreed in its Seventeenth regular meeting to permit the general secretariat to begin a campaign aimed at obtaining from the governments of the region the approval of a budget for the member universities. At the meeting which took place recently in the headquarters of CSUCA it was decreed that the general secretariat of the institution act in accord with the distinctiveness of each country and by means of coordinated actions with the respective rectors. In like manner it was decided to again request of the president of the republic and of the president of the Constituent Assembly of El Salvador, the return of the buildings of the University of El Salvador, UES, to their respective authorities. The buildings of the UES have been militarily occupied since July 1980. It likewise decided to request respect for the physical well-being of all Salvadoran students and the approval of a budget adequate for the needs of that house of learning. [Text] [Guatemala City EL IMPARCIAL in Spanish 6 Jul 83 pp 1, 7] 9989

OIL SPILL COMPENSATION COMMISSION--A high-level commission representing the government of the republic was formed to negotiate with the Guatemalan Shell Distributing Company, Inc the amount of indemnity that said entity must pay the state of Guatemala for the damages and harm done to the country on 1 April by the shipwreck of the Shell barge in the Bay of Amatique. The commission is made up of Mr Alfonso Alonso Lima of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr Juan Ibarra; corvette captain Anibal Ruben Giron Arriola of the Ministry of National Defense; Eng Augusto Joaquin Grajeda Aldana of the Ministry of Communications, Transportation and Public Works; Mr Leonel Mendizabel Escobar of the Home Office; Mr Carlos Enrique Sandoval and Mr Ernesto Alfredo Miron Giron of Public Finance; Dr Victor Manuel Orellana Escobar of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food; and Maj and Eng Marco Julio Espinoza Contreras of the Secretariat of Mines, Hydrocarbons and Nuclear Energy. [Text] [Guatemala City DIARIO DE CENTRO AMERICA in Spanish 7 Jul 83 p 6] 9989

CSO: 3248/1063

EMERGENCY INFORMATION CENTER CREATED

Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 9 Jul 83 p 20

/Text/ A new service named the Emergency Information Center (CIE) has made the Public Security Force (FUSEP) more accessible to the civil population for the purpose of providing greater coverage and expediency to the law-enforcement services at the national level.

All persons having to report any kind of law violation, emergency or situation considered of importance to the national security can resort to this information center, the Public Relations Office of the aforementioned agency pointed out.

The CIE operates 24 hours a day and will give the proper attention to all appeals made for the preservation of public order, the elimination of delinquency and the security of the state, promptly mobilizing the necessary personnel that often fails to provide adequate aid because of the slowness of communications.

In order to provide this service, the FUSEP has set up the following telephones throughout the country:

Tegucigalpa--Intelligence Directorate (C-2), 22-8976; Casamata Headquarters, 199 and 22-8977; National Directorate of Investigations (DNI), 22-8978; and Special Services Unit (FUSES), 22-8979.

La Ceiba--First Region of the FUSEP, 199; and Fourth Infantry Battalion, 42-2232.

San Pedro Sula--Second Region of the FUSEP, 199 and 54-2222; Regional Directorate of Investigations (DNI), 32-1111; and Third Infantry Battalion, 54-3334.

Santa Rosa de Copan--Third Region of the FUSEP, 198; and 12th Infantry Battalion, 199.

Comayagua--Fifth Region of the FUSEP, 199.

Choluteca--Sixth Region of the FUSEP, 82-0701; and 11th Infantry Battalion, 82-0702.

Danli--Ninth Region of the FUSEP, 199.

Juticalpa--10th Region of the FUSEP, 199; and 16th Infantry Battalion, 198.

BRIEFS

ARMY POSITIONED ALONG SALVADORAN BORDER--Ocotepeque--The Honduran Army has already taken surveillance positions along the Salvadoran border to prevent attacks by guerrillas against the civilian population of our country. The situation is tense in the area following an FMLN [Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front] commando attack on the El Poy Customs that destroyed papers and furniture, forcing the customs officials and the civilian population to flee and take refuge in Ocotepeque and nearby places. At the moment, the Honduran population in the area is tranquil, although somewhat nervous, especially since the cutoff of electricity by the guerrillas because it comes from El Salvador. As of now it is not known what damage occurred in the Salvadoran Customs, since the telephone line was also cut by the subversives. Together with the army, elements of the Territorial Forces and of the Public Security Force, police the frontier, with the primary objective of not allowing the violence to reach the Honduran towns bordering on the neighboring country and to keep the people tranquil. [Text] [San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 9 Jul 83 p 10] 9678

BCIE HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT LOAN--BCIE [Central American Bank of Economic Integration] agreed yesterday to a 3 million lempira loan to the Honduran Government to finish construction of the Tegucigalpa-Rio del Hombre highway. The road, 24 kilometers long, paved to a width of 7.3 meters will follow a new route to eliminate the parts responsible for frequent automobile accidents. The present highway has a deficient alignment. Also, being located in mountainous terrain, it has gradients of 9 percent in stretches of up to 500 meters, remaining therefore at levels of 50 percent saturation during maximum use time. The new road begins at the point where the Tegucigalpa Regional Interconnector ends and terminates at the Rio del Hombre bridge to the north of the capital. Also involved is the improvement of the first stretch of the most important Honduran highway because it connects the principal development areas of the country. Its completion is of high priority for the government and is included in the 1979-1983 National Development Plan. This is the second credit which BCIE is granting for the same project. The first, for 21.2 million lempiras, was agreed to 22 December 1982. Both loans are financed by resources of BCIE and the Inter-American Development with an annual interest rate of 6 percent and a maturity of 28 years with a 5 year grace period. The documents were signed by the BCIE Honduran director, Arcio Ochoa, and the minister of Treasury and Public Credit, Arturo Corlet Corleto Moreira. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Jul 83 p 3] 9678

VOTER REGISTRATION UNDER RNP--Tegucigalpa--The Civil Registry will be placed under the jurisdiction of the National Persons Registry (RNP) as of Monday, 13 June, the head of the latter agency, Orlando Iriarte, reported yesterday. Since time immemorial, civil registration has been under the authority of the Metropolitan Council of the Central District and the municipalities of the country. When making the announcement, the head of the RNP said "that with the full support of the Honduran Government, armed forces, political parties and other sectors of the country, all Hondurans will be properly documented in 1985." He also expressed the urgent need to have the National Electoral Tribunal approve the operational program of that entity inasmuch as the task of issuing identity cards nationwide will be started in September. Finally, he asserted that this registration project will not be a failure as some sectors that are not interested in having Hondruans being properly documented have averred. /Text/ /San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 7 Jul 83 p 5/ 8414

CSO: 3248/1093

CHIAPAS STATE GOVERNMENT RESPONDS TO LOCAL UNREST

Peasants Sack Properties

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 18 Jun 83 p 4

[Text] Simojovel, Chiapas--The peasants who serve in the ranks of CIOAC [Independent Central Organization of Agricultural Workers and Peasants] and PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] have changed their tactics from invading small properties, to sacking them, carrying off everything they find in the their path.

This has really caused confusion among the people for even though they continue to stubbornly insist "on getting back what is theirs," the peasant groups have changed their attitude in spite of their leaders' goadings.

It is said that this change of attitude is due basically to the fact that the government, headed by Gen Castellanos Dominguez, is keeping its word when he pointed out that "invasions will not be permitted and that agrarian problems will be resolved under present law."

It is emphatically pointed out that the recent vacating of properties on the coast by elements of Public Security has constituted a point of departure to control the violence generated by invasions in the area.

Let us hope that this situation does not change, although small owners must now be guarding their properties on a permanent basis to avoid having them sacked.

Governor Promises Peace

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 19 Jun 83 p 1

[Text] Comitán, Chiapas--The governor of the state, Gen Absalon Castellanos Dominguez, reaffirmed his promise to maintain absolute tranquility in the countryside "even though many may not like it."

He said that on presiding here over the first working meeting "regional module of Comitán municipality" which took place in the auditorium of this city in the presence of diverse sectors of the population and officials of the governor's cabinet.

On mentioning the problem of land possession the governor recognized that it is a problem which exists in the state, at the same time that he was addressing himself to cattlemen and small proprietors explaining to them that in a joint action with the Office of the Secretary of Agrarian Reform and the state government, necessary solutions are being carried out through justice and respect for the law.

On the other hand the head of the Chiapas government informed those present at the meeting held here that the government felt it necessary to discharge very large numbers of employees of Forestal since they were accepting bribes from the timber merchants of the area who in excessive degree are destroying our forests.

He then added that the cutting of trees is not being allowed because "we have seen that unfortunately some timber merchants are in collusion with the employees not only to destroy our forests, but to exploit Indian peasants," ACD noted that as a result, "I hold myself responsible for adherence to the rules in order to check the problem and protect the Indians."

Anti-Gun Campaign

Tuxtla Gutierrez LA VOZ DEL SURESTE in Spanish 18 Jun 83 p 7

[Text] Villaflores, Chiapas--Members of the Mexican Army are conducting an anti-gun campaign in the fraylesca area which will undoubtedly result in reducing to a considerable degree the use of guns existing throughout the municipality, which is the cause of bloody events every day.

Yesterday soldiers were posted along the Ignacio Zaragoza road stopping busses and trucks as well as private cars submitting all the occupants to a search. They demanded even their briefcases, since many people keep guns in these "mariconeras" which they put on their belts on arriving at their destination, and after conducting business or arranging some other matter in the town hall, they enter a bar or some other center of vice, armed, constituting a serious danger, since in a drunken state quarrels arise which consequently lead to lamentable results.

The army is combatting robberies, assaults and other crimes which are a normal occurrence in the fraylesca area. Such a measure is unquestionably a good one, but it would be appropriate also--comments are invited in this area--if, with the same goal, they also entered the isolated ejidos, which demonstrate a high degree of gun use, as is the case of the Los Angeles and Joaquin Miquel developments among others, where even 11-year-old youngsters carry frightening pistols.

9678

CSO: 3248/1070

STUDY DONE ON POSSIBLE USES OF MANAGUA LAKE

Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish 14 Jun 83 pp 1, 12

[Text] One of the main objectives in the study that the Nicaraguan Institute of Natural Resources (IRENA) has been conducting for several months is to decide how to use the water in Managua Lake.

Carlos Morales, director of the lake project, Patricio Caceres, technical advisor, and Ms Marisol Sanchez gave this newspaper details of the study and the lake plan which will be completed in the medium-term.

One of the principal steps taken by the institute has been a study in which 17 people, including technicians, secretaries and other personnel, are taking part.

The study on mercury pollution and other pollutants has revealed that the principal problems with the lake are agricultural chemical pollution, black water and industrial waste pollution, according to those in charge of the project.

"The inhabitants of our capital city have contributed heavily to this pollution. If one takes into account that at this time there are approximately 600,000 inhabitants, we should take steps in anticipation of demographic growth," Patricio Caceres said.

As a result of mercury poisoning in past years, IRENA had already begun a study even before the Salvage and Development Workshop came into being, our sources of information said.

In answer to questions by the writer on whether there were evidence of mortality among people who live along the lake shore, technicians pointed out that there are only partial statistics for 1968 in which it is established that diseases originating in the water caused 17 percent of the deaths that year in Nicaragua.

IRENA, the Ministry of Health and the Nicaraguan Water and Sewage Institute (INAA) are taking part in the study and it has been recognized by scientists at the University of Lunds (Sweden) and others.

"After the study is completed salvage recuperation of the lake proper follows. Then the alternatives that exist can be seen: finding drainage to clean the lake, bringing in water from the valleys," Caceres said.

No tourist nor any other plan can be implemented at this time, since it still is not known what the lake's waters are good for.

The director of the lake project said it is possible that the water can be used to improve agriculture in the area, for the fishing industry, or as a tourist attraction.

Two million cordobas are available for the study, contributed by the governing junta and 2 million for the second stage of the project. There is also a contribution of 1.5 million cordobas for installation of a laboratory.

Within the studies activities, observation and study of all bodies of water that surround the lake are being looked into. These are: Asososca, Tiscapa, Acahualinca, Jiloa, Apoyeque and, if necessary, Nejapa lagoon.

The technical advisor said that control is maintained over filtrations that come from the lake to Asososca lagoon and back to the lake again.

Sampling from the study of some 44 to 52 kilometers has afforded data that the most polluted part of the lake is from Miraflores bay to the mouth of the Tipitapa river which is where the greatest part of industrial waste is concentrated.

"We think that the further we get away from the most affected area the less the pollution is in the other area. For this reason the western part has a tourist potential now that its waters are of good quality or, in other words, are not very polluted," Patricio Caceres said.

Moreover, it has been determined that progressive salinization of the lake is not happening, but a saline content does exist which places restrictions on the use of water for agricultural purposes.

"The essential point to know, if the water in the lake can be used for agriculture, industry, etc., is to determine if on exploitation of this resource whether it will not soon be depleted," these same sources said.

IRENA is now planting forests on some 10 million hectares in the southern basin in order to avoid washouts, erosion and dust storms, they added.

Ms Sanchez, telling of the incident, pointed out that that day, last 24 May, they left about 6 am from the mouth of the Tipitapa and that quite a bit of ground swell was noted.

IRENA technicians remained no less than 24 hours in the water since no one was aware of its sinking, after which the motor launch lost its motor which sank into the waters of the lake.

"Fortunately, there was a shift in the winds and the swells carried us to the coast where Barrio Santa Clara is located instead of carrying us to Chiltepe lagoon," said Ms Sanchez.

No one was aware of the event and it was not until the next day, or 25 May, that we were able to leave. And, by then, IRENA had gotten together a team for our rescue.

"Undoubtedly, what saved us was our grabbing hold of the motorboat and spending a whole day and night there. We did not even remember the alligators and cuajipales that are in the area of the river mouth," the director of the project added, smiling when recalling his impressions.

Despite all of this, they all maintain the same enthusiasm and they only hope to get a new motor so they can continue the lake study. In the mouth of the Tipitapa river many people are engaged in fishing in small wooden skiffs.

By the time the newsmen from LA PRENSA got to the scene, several men scurried aboard motorboats to get into the lake's dirty and polluted waters which do not even dissuade children who take their daily dip.

9908

CSO: 5000/2042

ASSESSMENT OF OPPOSITION'S UNITY, POLITICAL FUTURE

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 83 p 4B

[Article by Nora B. Peacocke]

[Text]

VINCENTIANS who feel it is time for a change in the party that runs the affairs of the little nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines are getting panicky. They have been looking for the New Democratic Party (NDP) of James "Son" Mitchell and the St. Vincent and the Grenadines National Movement (SNM) of Dr. Gideon Cordice to come together in a unified attempt to provide a viable opposition to Prime Minister Milton Cato's St. Vincent Labour Party (SVLP) at the next general elections, due at the latest in March 1985. However, this has not happened and many feel that time is running out. Especially in the face of hints of a likely snap election.

Mitchell needs no introduction. He is a parliamentarian of many years, and a onetime Minister of Agriculture of the country. He was also Premier for a short time.

Cordice on the other hand is new to politics. He is a St. Vincent island scholar, who graduated as a medical doctor. He has served his native land in his profession since 1952, after returning from Aberdeen University in Scotland. Cordice has a great reputation for humanitarianism. He retired from the government service in 1978 but still conducts a private practice.

FRUSTRATED

In 1981 Cordice entered politics with the formation of the SNM. The reason? He, like many others, believes that a new approach to government is needed if St. Vincent and the Grenadines is to pull itself out of the slough of despondency and frustration into which so many of the people who should be operating productively have sunk.

Many Vincentians feel that in the two previous general elections the political developments in the country caused the will of the majority of people to be frustrated.

In 1974 the electoral alliance between Ebernezer Joshua of the PPP (People's Political Party) and Milton Cato of the SVLP literally gave the election to Cato, whose party supplied nearly all the unity candidates. The comparatively large PPP following who could not endure the unsavoury thought of casting their votes in favour of a party which they had opposed and vilified for 20 years stayed at home.

In 1979, when the PDM (People's Democratic Movement) of Kenneth John and Parnel Campbell joined the left-wing Yulimo to form the United People's Movement, Cato was once again handed the government on a platter. Many votes which would have gone to Mitchell's NDP were diverted to Cato. The SVLP was regarded as the stronger of the two anti-communist parties and since the cry was "Don't split the anti-UPM vote," the NDP lost out.

Now another cry is on, "Don't split the anti-labour vote. We need a change." The electorate has raised the cry again, but this time it is a

deliberate call to Mitchell and Cordice, not to their own rank and file. For months now they (the electorate) have been asking the two men who have the power — if they unite but only if they unite — to set their fears at rest and give them peace of mind. But there has been no favourable response. The two parties maintain separate election campaigns.

The feedback seems to point to the fact that some of the people who are looking to Mitchell and Cordice to "deliver us" are becoming a bit disappointed at the delay in rapprochement.

There had been high hopes that the

dissatisfaction with the mode of taxation that brought about the three per cent turnover traders' tax the antagonism against the Representation of the People Act and the failure to update the voter registration list, the unsatisfactory economic situation with government ventures, like the sugar industry; and the common anger that must exist given Mitchell's statements on discrimination against women and the composition of Cordice's party, would combine to bring the two parties together.

Both NDP and SNM must realise that to extend a unity movement to involve either of the two parties that have acquired a "communist taint" would be fatal to their chances and another bonus for the SVLP. But it is extremely difficult to understand why the two democratic parties do not get together.

The country is beginning to wonder if, once again, statesmanship is lacking in the men to whom a large, percentage of citizens had begun to look with some confidence for leadership.

Vincentians so badly need positive

leadership, the certainty of a positive approach on which to rely. The negativeness of our society is too frustrating to be endured for very much longer.

I think it was George Odum of St. Lucia who remarked with unblemished truth on the difficulty confronted by fragmented parties in all small States to find a full quota of "good" candidates to stand for political honours. He said that six or seven "good" men were possible but 13 or 14 was another matter. (Of course "good" could have different meanings to different people. Odum himself did not make it). Mitchell and Cordice surely need to take note and combine their resources.

Cato and the SVLP have had two terms to help the little nation of St. Vincent and the Grenadines develop a positive plan of action based on its own resources, with the help of foreign aid wisely used where it is available. If a plan has emerged it is not particularly striking. Have Mitchell and Cordice decided to give Cato another term of five years?

CSO: 3298/798

GOVERNMENT SOUNDS WARNING OVER LATEST FOREIGN EXCHANGE LOSS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Trinidad and Tobago lost \$1,200 million in foreign exchange for the first six months of this year, according to Mr Errol Mahabir, Minister of Labour, Social Security and Cooperatives.

It was the period when the country normally added to the foreign exchange reserves he said, adding: "The haemorrhage of scarce foreign exchange must be stopped.

Mr Mahabir was speaking at the meeting of the Southern Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Gulf City Auditorium, La Romain, last night.

He told the businessmen: "We have to understand that we cannot ensure the availability of essential drugs, spares, raw materials and capital goods--upon which life and jobs depend--if dissipate our foreign exchange earnings on importing luxuries and on extensive foreign travel.

"The consumerism in the system has to be stopped, preferably by voluntary action on the part of the population itself. In short, there is an urgent need for the society to respect the basics in life--that we cannot spend unless we earn, we cannot earn unless we produce and we cannot import unless we export."

Mr Mahabir stressed the need for new, modernising investments to produce goods for export.

Vigilance Call

Licensing arrangements which some firms had entered into with their foreign associates did not in his view produce optimal benefits for the country.

The Minister said: "you foreign partners must have a significant stake at risk in the success of the business; and I need not remind you that meaningful joint ventures have always received active support from the Government.

"This will continue indeed, there may very well be cases when tripartite arrangements, involving the local private sector, the Government and foreign

interests would present the appropriate combination, particularly in investments which require large sums of money and highly-experienced management."

There was need for vigilance in securing and retaining access to export markets. "In the rapidly growing new protectionism--which is evident in the Western Hemisphere--the combined resources of labour, business and Government are necessary to put up effective resistance."

CSO: 3298/802

PARTIES GEAR UP FOR 8 AUGUST LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

Chambers at PNM Convention

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

LOCAL Government Elections will be held in Trinidad on Monday, August 8. This was announced by Prime Minister George Chambers, political leader of the ruling People's National Movement, at the party's Special Convention held at the Chaguaramas Convention Centre yesterday.

The PNM draft 80 page manifesto was also approved and the 120 candidates to contest the four municipal and seven County Council elections announced.

In his wide-ranging address, Mr Chambers told a packed convention hall of the discussions at last week's Caricom Heads of Government conference, of the oil situation and the situation relating to indiscipline among youths, firearms and the Opposition in Parliament.

He said that:

"Decision would be announced this week relating to taxation in the oil industry and reversing the trend of retrenchment.

"Consideration was being given to whether the existing penalties relating to unlicensed firearms matched the gravity of acts being permitted.

"The 1983 Budget was still valid and Government was reviewing proposed expenditure very closely to ensure that whatever cuts were made would have the minimum negative effect on employment while maintaining sound financial management.

Referring to Parliament, he said that the Speaker had been defied, disrespected and vilified in the most appalling manner. Respect for the customs and traditions of the institution had been cast aside and replaced by petulance and crudity.

40 MINUTE BLACKOUT

He charged that "the perpetrators appear to be convinced that their behaviour and actions will enhance their political status in the eyes of the population."

Towards the end of Mr Chambers's address, there was an electricity outage lasting about 40 minutes.

Resuming, he said those people who were vilifying the speaker were behaving like schoolboys when they could not have their way.

He said: "These people must consider that those people for whom they had voted had taken their confidence and insulted the people who voted for them. Their votes were being used to place people rejected election after election by the national community.

"People 18 months ago about whom the worst was said are now in bed with them with and without blankets" Mr Chambers added.

Referring to statements he made at Arima which he claimed were reported and misreported, he said: "There is an orchestrated plan in this country to get me fed

up. They want me to get fed up and say I have had enough.

"I said in Arima and I say it today, I entered into solemn contract with the people of this country and I am going no damn place.

"From the day following the official mourning period for the late Prime Minister Dr Eric Williams, they launched a savage and vicious attack on me.

"I have come to the conclusion that there is nothing more they can do me ... I am dealing with the people of Trinidad and Tobago."

Mr Chambers told the Convention: "We must continuously review our options in order to minimise dislocations in the domestic economy.

"We would welcome constructive proposals from any source, but since I delivered my 1983 Budget speech, I have neither heard nor seen any comprehensive alternative strategy save the suggestion to devalue the currency.

"As you will recall, this was proposed during the Budget debate by a gentleman who immediately thereafter departed to live in another country."

Mr Chambers said that since December, the major adverse development had been the fall in the price of crude oil. As a result they expected Government's revenue to decline by about \$600 million compared with estimates made in the 1983 Budget.

Mr Chambers said he would summon the National Planning Commission as soon as he received the report of the Multi-Sectoral

Planning Task Force under the chairmanship of Mr William Demas, President of the Caribbean Development Bank.

He referred to the use of drugs in and out of schools and said there was need for increased vigilance by parents and teachers.

On firearms, he said: "A further ominous development is the ownership by people at all levels of the society of unlicensed firearms, some of which are extremely sophisticated."

"When this is coupled with the increasing use of weapons in hold-up and bank robberies, the danger is compounded."

PNM Manifesto

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

LOCAL government bodies spent a total of \$418 million in their various activities last year, more than a ten-fold increase in expenditure since 1973, according to the PNM Local Government Manifesto released yesterday.

"Emphasis has been placed on public health, roads, bridges, drains, environmental sanitation and public facilities such as recreation grounds, markets, abattoirs and cemeteries," the manifesto added.

"Simultaneous with the increased activities of local government bodies has been the progressive and sustained development of facilities in communities throughout the counties by the Central Government."

This collaborative effort will continue to be a major element of policy of the PNM, the manifesto promised.

The manifesto is a comprehensive record of local government activity, past, present and future.

In looking forward to local government elections, the manifesto highlighted aspects of the country's democratic system entrenched in the Constitution including the independence of the judiciary.

Among the many plans outlined in the manifesto is one for building community centres throughout the country on a new design and based on the new cost sharing formula — 25 per cent community, 75 per cent Government.

PNM Candidates

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The ruling People's National Movement yesterday announced its list of candidates for the 120 seats in the Local Governments elections to be held on August 8.

The names of the candidates were announced by Mr Horace Grant, the party's Public Relations Officer, at the party convention at Chaguaramas Convention Centre last night following which they took the party's oath.

Some of the existing councillors were retained but there are a lot of new faces. One notable absentee from the PNM lineup is Mayor of Port of Spain Councillor Roy Neehall. The list of candidates is as follows.

St. Andrew-St David County Council: Michael James, Shirley Oliver, George Puckerin, Rita Jennings, Josephine Renn, Raymond Philip Wilbert West, Harry Juteram and Miller Pierre.

Nariva-Mayaro County Council: Frankie Blondell, Rawlings Jeffers, A. F. Chrysostom, Vernon Alleyne, Lawrence Pereira, Tazim Hosein, Carlton Richardson, and John Warrick.

Caroni County Council: Krishna Maharaj, Krishna Ramkissoo, Sheila Newallo Craig, Basdeo Marajh, Clinton Charles, Nazir Ali, Rajendranath Rampersad, Vivian Guy, Ramjohn Mohammed, Desmond Baxter, Stalin Mungal and Pollard Ramsaroop.

San Fernando Borough Council: Rakeeb Hosein, Knolly Huggins, William Steele, Vernon Leotaud, Winston Moore, Ivan Toolsie, Amjad Ali, Enez Smith and Roger Parris.

Point Fortin Borough Council: Fitzroy Hagley, Carlton Hackshaw, Muriel Williams, George Melville, Lionel Blake and Rudolph Gould.

Victoria County Council: Medford Roberts, Vincent Scott, Verna Baptiste, Solon Douglas, Cuthbert Clyne, Sheila Sandy, Aaron Ramsingh, Iman Ali, Partap Ramoudit, Seepersad Arjoonsingh, Harrigan Morgan, Changoor Ramkissoo, Rennie Charles, Warren Wright and McCleod Retess.

St. Patrick County Council: L. John Williams, Sheila Lamorrel, Joseph Lumkin, Stanley Peters, Zalica Alladin, Henry Nurse, Winston Campbell, Leonard Baptiste, Oscar Dasent, Rennie Matthews and Cecil Koylass.

Arima: Leroy Morris, Jim Morris, Jeanette Gay, Rose Jannierre Norman Kistow, Shaffeck Khan and Hugh Hackett.

St. George West: Betty St Louis, Cecil Tomkin, Amoy Kong See, Zennie Renn, Francis Romany, Adolphus Phillip, Juslin Diaz, George Kangalee, Audric Pantaleon, Muriel Mitchell, Ophella Cedeno, Lennox Constantine, Urairie Henry, Dave Shirdat, Sonny Rampersad, Mohammed Hosein, Yvonne Alexander, Shirley Lamont and Norman Heller.

St George East: Sheed Nabbie, Kelshall Bennett, Esme Smith, Junior Reyes, Melbourne McClean, Boysie Mungal, Bertrand Robinson, Jarette Narine, Ivan Roopia, Clementina Hall, Freida McKenzie and Martin Munroe.

Port-of-Spain City Council: Robert Chee Mooke, Lucille Chrysostom, Eulalie James, Glennis Jackson, William Johnson, Clifford Phillip, Steve Grant, Albert Bailey, Stephenson Sergeant, Zainool Ali, Grace Talma and Mervyn Telfer.

Opposition Unity

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 17

[Text] The opposition is so united and fully prepared to unseat the People's National Movement (PNM) in the local government elections, that Prime Minister George Chambers is panicking, Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday has stated.

"We are not surprised that Mr Chambers should occupy so much of his time at the PNM convention to vent his feelings on the opposition," he added.

Mr Panday said: "We are aware that having moved from blunder to blunder since he assumed leadership of the party, Mr Chambers has nothing to tell the people with respect to where the country is heading and what are the hopes for a better life.

"In turning his 'guns' on the Opposition he has revealed to the country that the PNM is in a state of panic. They are scared about the unity that has taken place in the opposition.

"We find it strange that Mr Chambers should seek to attack the behaviour of the opposition in Parliament while it would seem that his own party officials organised a violent mob outside Parliament on the last occasion that Parliament sat."

The Opposition Leader said the demonstration was organised to "terrorise the Opposition and the country is aware that the Opposition behaved with tremendous dignity and courage on that occasion."

He claimed that as far as Parliament itself was concerned, the Prime Minister himself was the one who brought Parliament into disrespect and contempt.

Hudson-Phillips at ONR Convention

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text] Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips, leader of the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) has refused an offer by Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday to remain in the Senate, and he has written Mr Panday telling him to advise the President to remove his name from the roll.

He told the party convention at Queen's Hall, St Ann's yesterday, that his temporary term in the Senate ended at 1 a.m. on Friday, after the debate on the Land Tenure Security Bill.

Yesterday's convention was to launch the party's campaign for the local Government elections, and present the candidates and manifesto.

In the Political leader's address, Mr Hudson-Phillips said the party's slogan for the Local Government elections would be "Shake them up."

ONR and the Alliance have agreed to an accommodation to contest the elections on a straight base of one to one in constituencies against the ruling People's National Movement (PNM).

Mr Hudson-Phillips said he was grateful to the Leader of the Opposition for giving him the opportunity to serve as a temporary senator, at the request of the National Land Tenants and Ratepayer's Association.

He told the convention: "I regret to report that I have never found myself in any forum where the level was lower and where there was a greater lack of understanding of what was being discussed." He pointed out that he had proposed several amendments which were rejected.

They even voted "no" against one of his amendments to correct a spelling error, because they were so accustomed to saying "no."

Mr Hudson-Phillips said he had no desire to continue in that Senate. "I have told the Leader of the Opposition, quite bluntly, that I cannot accept a request by him to remain in the Senate, in order to raise the tone of the debate in that body."

He told Mr Panday that it was a matter for the ONR whether it wished to make available some other person to fill that temporary vacancy.

Mr Hudson-Phillips was appointed a temporary Opposition Senator during the illness of Opposition Senator Nuevo Diaz.

The ONR leader said the single most important question facing the country "is whether we intend to demonstrate by our votes in the Local Government elections that we have no confidence in the Government. We have to indicate to the PNM that we intend to give change a chance."

While they were formally launching the campaign for the Local Government elections, what they were in fact, launching was the campaign for the next general elections.

The ONR, he said, looked at the Local Government elections as being important, and as part of the build up for the next general elections.

Mr Hudson-Phillips said the politics of the ruling party had nothing to do with the serious issues in the country. "They have come to feel and believe, not

without some justification, that they can do what they want, and the population will still put them.

Non-Functioning

"The result of this is that we have a non-functioning Government and a non-functioning Local Government. The moment they are elected they just forget the promises they have made, and treat the population with utter and absolute contempt.

"The situation is made worse when there is a Central Government controlled by one party and Local Government controlled by the same party."

Mr Hudson-Phillips said the city of Port of Spain was a classic example, adding that during the past 15 years, one of the most beautiful cities in the Caribbean had been permitted to deteriorate and decay.

The ONR leader said Local Government would remain dead, as long as Local Government councillors were not free to criticise the Central Government, whenever this was necessary. "All the Local Government bodies need shaking up."

In referring to the accommodation with the Alliance for contesting the elections, he said it was necessary that "we adopt a strategy for the Local Government elections, 1983, dictated by the state of the country and the state of national politics."

"It is absolutely necessary that we consolidate the base which we have created, in order to deliver a resounding vote of no confidence in the Government. Local Government elections do not determine who will sit in the Parliament, it is true, but it is an opportunity for us to give the population the opportunity to see how somebody else can run Local Government."

"The country must tell the Government that we do not like it so."

Initial ONR Candidates

Port-of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) presented 53 candidates yesterday for the August 8 Local Government Elections. A spokesman for the ONR said the party would name more candidates at a later date.

ONR and the National Alliance have decided to join forces to contest the elections.

Among the candidates named to contest the elections are former national cyclist, Ian Atherly (San Fernando East), J.D. Ramjohn (St. James East) and Port of Spain lawyer, Stanley John (Woodbrook).

The 53 candidates named are:

San Fernando Borough Council: Ian Atherly (San Fernando East-/Central), Amral Khan (Springville/Vistabella), Wilda Balladin (St. Joseph/Vistabella), Marlene Ambrose (Paradise/San Fernando), Arthur Sanderson (St. Patrick), Shair Shah Ali (Les Efforts) Cynthia Jones (Victoroo).

(Victoria) Harry Kuarsingh (Marabella), Abdool Aziz (La Fortune/La Romain/Hermitage), Roy Rajaram (Palmiste)

(Nariva/Mayaro) Theophilus Mitchell (Mayaro), Ram Partap Mahabir (Biche), Bill Mahabirsingh (Cocal), Jeffery Rigues (Trinity-/Guayaguayare);

(St. Andrews/St. David) Kenny Superville (Sangre Grande North); Irving Lockhard (Manzanilla); Taran Sooklal (Sangre Grande Central);

(Caroni) Abu Hassan Mohammed (Bejucal/Charlieville);

(St. George West) Margaret Hector (Pt. Cumana/Chaguaramas); Daniel Rampersad (Covigne/Richplain), Patrick Rampersad (Goodwood/La Puerta), Lewis Warrick (Morne Coco/Cameron), Leo des Vignes (Patna/Diamond Vale), Winston Murray (Santa Cruz/Maracas-/Bourg Mulatresse), Marilyn Boucard (St. Ann's/Cascade), Lawrence Barriteau (Picton), Louis Smith (Beetham/Trou Macaque), Peter Prosper (Newalloville), Kenneth Butcher (El Socorro West/Barataria), Deo Ramsingh (El Socorro East/Petit Bourg), Mellitus Barnes (Petit Bourg/Maitagual), Martin Lewis (Mt. D/or/Aranguez).

(St. George East) Albert Montano (Valsayn/St. Joseph), Phyllis Besson (St. Benedict), Hector Lewis (D/Badei/Bon Air/La Horquetta), Rawle Raphael (Blanchissese/Cleaver), Harry Goodial (Arima/San Rafael).

(Point Fortin Borough Council) Carol Noel (Pt. Fortin Central), Lorna Phillip (Guapo).

(Arima Borough Council) Clifford Carrera (Calvary), Brian Libert (Arima North-East), Edward Metiver (Arima North West), Keith Denali (Tumpuna).

(Port-of-Spain) Jainool Deane Ramjohn (St. James East), Stanley John (Woodbrook), Jenson Fox (Port-of-Spain North), Andy Rodriguez-Seijas (Port-of-Spain, South), Franklyn Baptiste (St. Ann's River South), Elmon Haynes (St. Ann's River Central), Lawrence Downes (Belmont South), Elmo Rousseau (Belmont East), Henry Fitz-Albert Smart (Belmont West).

[Text]

THE Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) has set out "four massive tasks" in its manifesto for the August 8 Local Government Elections, which the party hopes to come to grips with for the future.

Mr. Surujrattan Rambachan, deputy Political Leader of the ONR, said at the party's National Convention at Queen's Hall, St. Ann's, yesterday, that the ONR was seeking the creation of an economic climate and an economy characterised by stable prices, prosperity and employment for the people.

The ONR would also seek to uphold parliamentary democracy and strengthen the rule of law; improve the quality of life in the urban and rural communities; and build a responsible society which will not only protect the weak, but also allow the family and individual to flourish.

In presenting the manifesto, Mr. Rambachan said the party proposed that the local authorities should be given the functions to handle:

- the collection and retention of all house rates and local taxes, including liquor licensing fees, and the assessment for tax purposes of all properties within the area of the local authorities;

- all matters concerning the payment of pensions, public assistance, disability payments and other local welfare payments;

ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- the running of all library services at Local Government level;

- the control of the distribution of water within the Local Government boundaries;

- the administration of bloc grants in the area of culture, the arts, sports and community development.

Mr. Rambachan said ONR proposed that additional services should be established in all counties. They are Town and Country Planning, county engineers, county solicitor, land acquisition, housing, registration of births and deaths, welfare, including old age pensions and public assistance, cultural officer, and motor vehicle inspection and licensing.

He said in order to achieve its goals effectively, loans would be granted to county councils for long and short-term development. This meant that the ONR would also seek to have revised the financing of local authorities.

The deputy political leader said a proper system of budgeting by Local Government bodies should be instituted. He said the Local Government bodies would be required to follow strict accounting procedures and to justify the level of their requests for grants by the Central Government.

There were several Local Government problems for urgent attention which the ONR pledged to address; and the party included in the manifesto:

- **HOUSING** — in the area of housing an ONR-controlled council will speed up the approval of plans for building, and seek to accelerate the connection of electricity and water to new premises. Each Local Government authority will be asked to identify areas which can be set aside for housing.

- **LOCAL HEALTH** — an ONR-controlled council will improve the environment by regular garbage collection, programmed maintenance, and ensure that all contractors perform effectively. Employment will be provided on a permanent basis for the maintenance of streets, sidewalks, drains and water courses. The public health function will be accentuated, and the number of sanitary inspectors will be increased, to assist in eliminating infestation of pests and the incidence of gastro-enteritis.

- **WATER** — an ONR-controlled

county council must have a say in the provision and distribution of water in Local Government areas. The bribery and corruption alleged in the distribution of water must be eliminated. Available resources will be distributed and shared on an equitable basis.

- **CARE OF THE AGED** — care of the aged must be decentralised. Each county will be provided facilities for same.

- **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES** — as a first step, all existing recreational facilities will be improved and maintained at a proper standard. New areas and facilities will be identified to cater for all age groups, infants, the young and the senior citizen. Community gymnasias, with facilities for basketball, table tennis and netball, swimming pools tennis courts and walk ways, will be established.

- **CULTURAL LIFE** — each county should have a county hall, in which major cultural performances would be organised. This must be in addition to existing community centres, which will be properly equipped and maintained. Cultural presentations will be organised at county level culminating in a national performance.

- **MARKETS** — every densely-populated residential area should be provided with this facility, and all markets must conform to the health and sanitation standards, as required by the laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

- **CEMETERIES AND CREMATORIA** — existing cemeteries will be properly maintained and additional cemeteries and crematoria established, in response to area needs and religious persuasions.

Mr. Rambachan said there was an urgent need in Trinidad and Tobago, today, to construct nationally a society based on the merging value systems of the people, their needs and their wants.

PNM Caroni Contestants

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 83 p 13

[Text] The ruling People's National Movement has presented six new faces to contest the Local Government election on August 8 for County Caroni.

Notably absent the outgoing chairman; Mr Menon Lochan, who was not selected by the party.

But according to Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, the party will "make use of his services."

Observers believe that he will be named as an alderman and chairman of the council, if the PNM regains control.

Newcomers are Krishna Ramkissoo, Sheila Newallo-Craig, Baadeo Maharaj, Clinton Charles, a former alderman, and Rajendranath Rampersad, and Vivian Guy.

Incumbents who will return to the polls include: Pundit Krishna Maharaj, who served as chairman between 1980-82, Nazir Ali, Ramjohn Mohammed, Desmond Baxter and Pollard Ramsaroop.

The PNM candidates were presented to the people of Caroni last Friday night at a political meeting in Chaguanas, Mr Manic Ramsarran, MP for Caroni East presented the candidates to the small gathering.

Individual candidates have begun house-to-house visits and personal meetings with the electorate.

PNM Success With Jobs

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 19 Jul 83 p 13

[Text] **TRINIDAD and Tobago has been selected by a major international food processing firm for a \$/2 million development and expansion in food production.**

Minister of Agriculture, Lands and Food Production, Mr Kamaluddin Mohammed, told this to about 60 persons at the presentation of People's National Movement 12

candidates for the August 8 Local Government elections. The presentation ceremony took place last Friday night at Chaguanas.

Mr Mohammed cited the decision of Nestle's International Trinidad Food Products to pump this large sum of money in this country as "a sign of confidence in the political leadership and economic stability."

He noted that Nestle's International has been operating in 110 countries and for Trinidad and Tobago to

be chosen for this exercise augurs well for the future of the Government and people.

Mr Mohammed called on the people to return all the PNM candidates to the Caroni County Council so that there will be "harmony, continuity and co-operation between the Central Government and the Local Government."

"In the context of na-

tional development," he said, "the Local Government system has done extremely well."

Mr Mohammed warned the electorate that they should not make the mistake of "putting any other party but the PNM in order not to disturb the progress being made by the Caroni Council."

Alliance Strategy

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 5 Jul 83 p 13

[Text] San Fernando: The National Alliance is planning a new strategy in preparation for the upcoming Local Government elections.

From tomorrow the executive officers of the Alliance will start visiting countries to meet candidates and activists to ensure that their election machinery is in order.

The first visit will be to St. Andrews-St. David and the exercise will continue over a two-week period.

Mr Basdeo Panday, leader of the United Labour Front(ULF), one of the political parties in the Alliance, said yesterday that they were well prepared for the elections but wanted to make sure that "everything was in order."

Asked about the accommodation talks with the other political parties including the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) Mr Panday said progress was being made in that direction.

CSO: 3298/800

OPPOSITION LEADER PANDAY SEES NEGATIVES IN CARICOM SUMMIT

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 17

[Article by Mickey Mahabir]

[Text]

TRINIDAD and Tobago has come out as the loser in the recently-concluded Caricom Heads of Government conference held at the Trinidad Hilton, according to Opposition Leader Basdeo Panday.

Mr. Panday said he believed that the other Caricom countries succeeded in getting from Prime Minister George Chambers promises for more aid and loans.

"What bothers me is that having regard to the fact that we no longer have our oil revenues, the Government will have to impose further tax burdens on our citizens in order to fulfill those promises" Mr. Panday said in the interview.

He said: "We feel that the PNM Government is only waiting for the local government elections to be over and if it gets a vote of confidence from the population it will argue that it has a mandate to impose heavier taxation.

Mr. Panday added: "We have enough problems on our hands — spiralling cost of living, poor electricity service, bad condition of the roads, endless problems with the water supply and do not talk about telephones at all."

"From where would the money come to offer assistance to other countries?" he asked.

Hit with the decline in oil revenue in particular and the thousands of workers going on the breadline in the various industries, Government should think of its own position instead of making promises to the other islands, he said.

In so far as Trinidad and Tobago was concerned, there was no agreement on the food plan for the Caribbean. The question of BWIA as a regional carrier was not settled. On the question of trade, very little was achieved. In as far as problems of the University of the West Indies were concerned, Trinidad and Tobago was left to carry the baby.

The Opposition leader said the conference was simply a waste of time — "a time for the Heads of Government to come together to give vent to their feelings on the problems in their respective countries with the hope that one may be able to help the other, and also to have a good time at our expense. But with the present economic state of the Caribbean, which one of the States will rescue the other?"

GUARDIAN ASSAILS BISHOP REGIME, CALLS FOR CARICOM ACTION

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 4 Jul 83 p 8

[Editorial: "Traitor in the Ranks"]

[Text]

WE imagine that since some of the Heads of Caricom Governments meeting here today come from countries too poor for their Press to subscribe to Cana that they might have missed a startling and important bit of news about Grenada and Russia.

It stated that Russia and Grenada have signed contracts covering economic and technical co-operation under which the Soviets will grant assistance to Grenada in the areas of education, communications, water supply and seaport development.

Fifteen Russian teachers for secondary schools, we hear, have already been assigned under the programme.

Now from what we understand of Russian education there are heavy doses of Marxist ideology stirred in and we expect that instead of the children's minds being focused on their CXC examinations and other traditional pursuits, they will be pointed towards forming the first cadre of homebred doctrinaire Marxists in the Caricom region.

TROJAN HORSE

No one, least of all members of Bishop's revolutionary regime, would expect that teachers from the Soviet Union, trained to communicate in English, will come to Grenada to inculcate in the island's young people an appreciation and love for democratic rights and freedoms.

The experience of history leads us to assume that they will strive as a missionary effort to brainwash young Grenadians in their charge with the poisonous ideology of Marxism, thus sewing the seeds for prolonged discord in the region.

Every which way we look at the movement and machinations of the totalitarian regime in Grenada, we see nothing but trouble in store for the region; the PRG represents a Trojan horse through which an alien and aggressive force has entered our peaceful sphere, one whose basic instinct and impulse are aimed destructively at our system and our way of life.

What continues to frighten us is the obvious complacency, the tolerance

or perhaps the impotence of Caribbean leaders in the face of this threat, their unwillingness to mount a positive and united counter-move against this growing monstrosity.

The spectacle of Government leaders meeting at the Trinidad Hilton to discuss economic integration while the Russians are most likely planning how to use the region as part of the geopolitical encirclement of the West with the help of Grenada is not only pathetic, it is ridiculous.

If among them they do not have the guts to tell Mr. Bishop to let his people go and to demand that Mr. Burnham end his travesty of democracy, then they are defining themselves fit only for the dustbin of history

where one day embittered posterity will assign them.

We have implored, we have requested, we have demanded that the men and women who head Caribbean Governments ex-communicate the Bishop regime but they natter about "pluralism" and "non-interference in internal affairs" while they say they support the principles of free speech, fair and just trials, habeas corpus, fair and free elections, respect for human dignity, parliamentary democracy, fair treatment of labour and capital, and freedom of the individual person.

What then are they doing with known violators of all these principles within their ranks?

We await the answer of history.

CSO: 3298/799

GOVERNMENT CRITICISM OF JUDGE, AG'S STATUS DRAW REACTION

Bar Association Action

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE BAR ASSOCIATION of Trinidad and Tobago yesterday "stripped" Attorney General Senator Russell Martineau of the traditional title of titular head of the local Bar.

This was stated by an official of the association following a special meeting yesterday in the wake of the Justice Deyalsingh affair.

According to the source, there were 60-plus barristers at the session ("a record attendance") and only one voted against the stripping resolution — a State Counsel in the Chambers of the Attorney General.

Attorney General's Position

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL and Minister of Legal Affairs, Senator Russell Martineau has said that his June 9 letter to Prime Minister George Chambers did not constitute a resignation.

This submission is contained in an affidavit submitted at the start of hearing of an injunction filed by Laventille craftsman Kenrick Charles.

Charles is claiming that Senator Martineau ceased to be Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs after he handed in his resignation letter to Mr Chambers.

The plaintiff is being represented by Mr Ramdeo Sampat-Mehta who

spent several hours making submissions before Mr Justice McMillan at the start of hearing yesterday.

Mr Tajmool Hosein SC is leading a battery of lawyers on behalf of the Attorney General.

Mr Sampat-Mehta cited several local and foreign constitutional authorities in support of his case. He said that the plaintiff's rights had been violated "as entrenched and embedded in the Trinidad and Tobago Constitution."

According to Mr Sampat-Mehta "the Attorney General had ceased to be Attorney General from the date of his resignation letter of June 9, 1983 and is functionless in his capacity and all acts and deeds done by and for the Attorney General were void and of no effect."

"My client's rights under fundamental human rights and his right to life and liberty and security of person and freedom of conscience

have been infringed and violated."

He said that this was because the plaintiff no longer knew what constituted the legitimate Government and Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago.

To support his arguments Mr Sampat-Mehta referred to Section 75, sub-section 1 of the Constitution which described the Attorney General as being an integral part of the Cabinet.

"Since he has resigned his portfolio, the government is not legally constituted. My client is in fear for protection of his life and liberty since he does not know which Government he owes his allegiance to."

Mr Sampat-Mehta is also claiming that the Prime Minister had no authority to refuse Senator Martineau's resignation.

When the hearing continues this morning, Mr Hosein will reply to the submissions.

Criticism of Chambers' Role

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 10 Jul 83 p 3

[Text]

WHAT is to prevent the Opposition from mounting a similar display? What is to prevent their rabid followers from deciding to "avenge" their party of the recent humiliation and come out in full force with a counter-display of ugly placards and vociferous carryings-on in the House?

Confrontation is very easily triggered when political nerve-ends are publicly frayed. The coarse demonstration by PNM fanatics on June 24 was not aimed at silencing opposing views with tact, educational prowess, or diplomatic suasion.

Rather, it bore many of the hallmarks of crudity, illiteracy, and even a touch of sinister ritual. It was an almost classic case of overskill, the kind usually undertaken by desperate people, using desperate means to solve desperate situations.

Unfortunately, it could all too readily carry the seeds of its own reaction because the injured parties may feel that face-saving is now almost a sacred duty. Once can only hope that good sense will prevail.

The thematic question emerging is whether Prime Minister Chambers calculated on all the possible chains and side chains of reaction that could be prompted by his condemnation of Justice Lennox Deyal Singh's comments on May 20, censuring the Government, the Commissioner of State Lands and the police concerning the demolition of a house on two previous occasions about one year earlier.

The learned judge's comments seem to have poured acid on a very delicate area of the Prime Minister's sensibilities. Mr. Chambers declared that the comments were an unwarranted attack on the executive and also told President Clarke in a letter, laid before the House on June 3, that the matter would be taken to Cabinet for its consideration and such action as it may deem appropriate.

SCREAM OF ANGUISH

It is difficult not to utter a cry or scream of anguish when an unexpected pain is inflicted. But there is something called "noblesse oblige" which simply means that people in key positions have an obligation to display honourable conduct, restraint and tact, even when an unexpected pain is inflicted on them.

An easier way of saying it is, they must "grin and bear it" and not make an ungentlemanly display of their feelings which is not only bad manners but contains the beginnings of an engendered disregard for the law among many citizens in our population.

And this is another area in which we suspect Prime Minister Chambers did not think-out to a conclusion the consequences of his ill-considered remarks.

Mr. Chambers is not an ordinary citizen. He is the Prime Minister. Visually, verbally and otherwise, his every action and reaction are carefully monitored, studied and, in not a few instances, imitated.

What he says and does are taken by some people not only as an example, but an "imprimatur" on behaviour. These people, notably the lunatic fringe of his Movement, have no room for thought and analysis but merely blind following.

These are the people who would brazen it out in Parliament, heckle representatives into the tea room, spit on those whose attention they did not get the first time, and generally make childish nuisances of themselves.

That is what one sees and hears. What one does not see or hear may be far worse. This refers to discussions among their peers, and in their homes, and with their children, on the rectitude of castigating judges and judgments thereby laying a very solid foundation for disrespect of the law and disregard of the highest authority.

One can well imagine the children in these homes, being the virgin tape recorders that they are, attentively noting all that is said and quietly adopting the same position, to take such action as they see fit, to be intemperate at will, to place high emphasis on nuisance value, to enjoy noise and illiteracy, and to regard the statement of judges as just so much humbug. Is this the society the Prime Minister wants to create?

Whether he wants to or not, he is doing just that, creating a nation in which tradition and probity can always be sacrificed at the altar of

expediency.

But then, we should not be surprised because we are dealing with an individual who promises to put all wrongs right, but refuses to make any corrections when it comes to DC-9 scandals and the usual long list of theft and suspected larceny of the Treasury.

This is the very individual who, in the same letter to President Clarke, could declare that his Government has an unswerving commitment to the principle of a free and independent Judiciary and to the recognition of its importance in preserving a truly democratic society; but who can at the same time convey the impression that he is threatening the Judiciary, and that he is above the law.

The word "impression" is chosen after much consideration, because we are not dealing here with intentions. What he "intended" and what he "said" may be different things.

Certainly those people who marched around the Red House and whipped themselves into fanatical fever did not hear noble and uplifting intentions.

This column does not propose getting into the rights or wrongs of what he said or what was his purpose. The tribunal of time and history will decide on that.

The justice of the ages, we are certain, will prevail; and if he erred, he will pay for his error, one way or another. Life has a force of destiny that is hard to resist.

We mentioned earlier that a sudden and unexpected pain tends to draw a response. Even in the rarified air of a Prime Minister, where unbecoming responses and public expletives are not the done thing, it's quite normal for an incumbent, stung by a whiplash censure, to grit his teeth and express his displeasure. But it is at that point that nobility of action, and dignity and decorum of behaviour must come in.

The Prime Minister was entirely within his right to convey his disagreement to the President and

even to appeal the ruling, as the Attorney General did the same day (May 20) when he listed his initial seven grounds of objection including the view that he felt the learned judge was wrong in law.

What we disapprove of is the senseless and tasteless business of hanging all the dirty linen out in public in such a way as to mislead and misdirect members of the citizenry.

Were he a greenhorn, someone newly arrived on the political scene, then we may be tempted to be understanding and tolerant. But this is not the case.

Prime Minister Chambers has been around for very many years and learned at the feet of the master politician himself who certainly would not have committed such a faux pas.

Frankly, we agree with the other thinking people in our society that what the Prime Minister had to say, and particularly his intention to carry the matter to Cabinet for action, is thoughtless and unsavoury.

To adopt the Prime Minister's well-known cricketing metaphor, we find it illogical for a no-stroke batsman who variously blocks or ducks in his crease to venture out to take an unprofessional shot...and find himself stumped. It is a particularly poor and uninspiring performance for a captain, especially when allied to the numerous lost opportunities to play a genuine captain's knock.

There are so many wrongs which have not been put right. So many needs and challenges which go abegging. So much a display of dull, unproductive, unimaginative "batting" that offers no answer to such critical issues as declining productivity, a sagging GDP and a one-item economy.

May we suggest that the next time Prime Minister Chambers considers leaping intemperately out of his crease, he first takes time off to recall those words from the Psalm which states:

"Set a guard over my mouth, O Lord, keep watch over the door of my lips."

MONEY PROBLEMS FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN TOBAGO ISSUES

Marketing Center Delay

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Jun 83 p 13

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

A \$4.5 MILLION marketing centre at Sangster Hill, Scarborough, for the Tobago House of Assembly is being held up because the Government has not released the money to pay contractors for work already done.

And according to Assemblyman Hochoy Charles, Secretary for Works, all of this is taking place because the Government continues to "break the law" by not establishing the Tobago House of Assembly Fund as required by the legislation which created the Assembly nearly three years ago.

Section 45 (1) of the Tobago House of Assembly Act states: "There is established the Tobago House of Assembly Fund to which shall be credited all sums appropriated by Parliament for use of the Assembly as well as all moneys collected by the Assembly in respect of fees or charges imposed by it under its by-laws.

"(2) All expenditure by and disbursements of the Assembly shall be met from the Fund."

If that Fund had been created, said Assemblyman Charles, the \$4.5 million approved by Parliament for the marketing centre, in the Assembly's estimates for last year, would have been in the Fund.

But the money is being held by the Ministry of Finance and repeated requests for the release of about \$1 million to pay contractors for work already done have been turned down.

Assemblyman Regis Caruth, Secretary for Marketing, explained

that the problem arose because the original contract for the project was signed by the Central Marketing Agency (CMA).

"The CMA signed the contract for the project in 1980 before the Assembly was created. "But all that is necessary now is that the contract be changed to the name of the Assembly," he said.

He said repeated requests by the Assembly for the release of funds were met by the excuse that the original contract in the name of the CMA was receiving the attention of the Solicitor General.

"Meanwhile not a penny has been released," he said, "And as a result, the contractors have stopped working on the project."

Assemblyman Caruth stressed that agriculture development was important to Tobago. And the Assembly was anxious to have the marketing centre completed so that it could provide proper wholesale and retail outlets for farmers.

He said the Assembly had discussions with the main contractor, The Environmentalists, and agreed to scale down the project to permit occupation of the building 18 months from the date of commencement of work.

Tennis Complex Funding

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jul 83 p 30

[Article by Zaid Mohammed]

[Excerpts] Lawn tennis in Tobago, which has unearthed some outstanding junior and senior national players in the past decade, will get a big boost early next year with the construction of a \$500,000 Tennis Complex with six courts at Bacolet, near Scarborough.

The complex was initially being planned for Smithfield but road and housing development in the area made the five-acre parcel of land unsuitable. The Central Government of Trinidad and Tobago responded favourably in providing the alternative site at Bacolet.

Harold Yearwood, a member of the Tobago Tennis Committee and a leading tennis coach in the island, said that the Trinidad and Tobago Government will be expected to provide most of the funds for the ambitious project, but the TTC are not depending solely on the State.

"We have been approaching several big businesses in an effort to solicit their backing for the Tennis Centre. For their monetary contribution, the businesses can be accommodated on certain days in the week where their employees' will be privileged to use the facilities for free," Yearwood said.

"So far, the traditional supporters of tennis in Tobago, like Trintoc and Royal Bank have responded favourably to the idea and we expect more budding enterprises to contribute towards the development of the sport here in Tobago," Yearwood said.

Budget Dispute

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 6 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

The Tobago House of Assembly is preparing for a battle with the Ministry of Finance this year over its annual estimates of expenditure.

The Assembly, on June 30, passed its 1984 Budget which calls for spending to the tune of \$553.7 million of which \$347.5 are for development projects vital to the island's progress.

The legal requirement is that the budget is submitted to the Minister of Finance by June 30, and the minister "may, in approving the estimates, make such modifications as he considers proper."

And here is where the battles lies. For according to the Democratic Action Congress - controlled assembly, these "modifications" in the past two years of the assembly's existence, have been made at the whim and fancy of the Minister and his officials.

Mr. Hochoy Charles

who is Leader of the Assembly, warned during the debate last week that 1984 Budget "is going to be critical. We are not going to allow any minister to cut our funds without justification," he declared.

"No minister visiting

us, and if he is visiting his overseas territory, is going to come here and cut our budget this year without satisfying us," he promised.

Throughout the debate, chairman of the various committees, referred to as sec-

retaries for the divisions under their control, complained bitterly about "arbitrary cuts" of their financial proposals in past budgets, and even illegal withholding of funds after they had been voted by parliament.

The "illegality" according to deputy chairman, Dr. Jeff Davidson, starts with the stubborn refusal of the Government to establish the Tobago House of Assembly Fund.

This fund should have been created with the coming into being of the Assembly in September 1980, and into it, were to be paid all money approved by parliament for the use of the assembly.

But the fund has not yet been created and even after its budgets have been passed by Parliament, the assembly still has to go to the Ministry of Finance for the release of funds for projects already approved.

EXCUSES

In some cases, complained assemblymen, "not a penny" has been released for 1983 for projects approved in the year's budget with Finance Ministry officials making "all sorts of silly excuses" and asking "silly questions."

But the law never envisaged this kind of treatment for Tobago, said Dr. Davidson. "What is clear," he said, "was that the assembly was conceived

as the body which was to provide better administration for Tobago."

One essential provision in the creation of the assembly, he said, was that consultation was to take place between the assembly and government. The Minister of Finance was enjoined to consult the assembly on all matters of national importance the national budget, development and the use of long terms funds.

"But we have not had the benefit of consultation on matters of national importance as envisaged by the law" he complained. "Indeed, it would not be far wrong to say that we have not had the benefit of consultation on any matter at all."

What was particularly significant, said Dr. Davidson, was that before the 1980 elections for the creation of the assembly, the ruling party, the People's National Movement, in its manifesto on the elections, had agreed to all the powers which the law provided for the about-to-be-created assembly.

But the PNM lost those elections, and immediately after, the government changed its stand, and continues to illegally withhold functions which properly belong to the Assembly.

"Before those elections, the outlook of

both the DAC and the PNM were virtually the same," he stated. "When the people rejected the PNM, they were rejecting the PN party, not the manifesto which was almost the same with the DAC manifesto. The Government then rejected the position it took before the elections," he charged.

Among the functions withheld from the assembly is the right to establish an islandwide system of marketing, said Dr. Davidson. "They refuse to tell the Central Marketing Agency to get out of Tobago," he stated.

REQUESTS

Dr. Davidson said that when the assembly complained about these illegal acts, the Attorney General some time ago got up in Parliament and asked why does not the assembly take the government to court on the matter.

"Well, we did take them to court, and to date they have failed to come to court hiding behind numerous requests for postponement," he charged.

He was referring to the application to the court by the assembly for an interpretation of the Tobago House of Assembly Act which has in fact been postponed several times.

Postponement of Court Case

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Jul 83 p 14

[Text] The high court application by the Tobago House of Assembly for a "judicial interpretation" of [words indistinct] of 1980, which created the Assembly has again been postponed.

The last postponement came on Tuesday when Mr Justice Richard Crane fixed hearing for October 17.

The assembly, on August 30, 1982, filed a summon seeking a judicial interpretation of the act. In an affidavit in support of the application, chairman of the assembly, Mr A.N.R. Robinson claimed that "fundamental division" of views in the construction of the act has led to "frustration," uncertainty and intolerable delays," in the administration of Tobago.

When the matter came up before Mr Justice Crane, Mr Michael de la Bastide, senior counsel for the Attorney General asked that the matter be adjourned to November.

But this was strongly opposed by Mr Algernon Wharton Senior Counsel for the assembly who told the courts that "the administration of the entire island of Tobago was at risk."

In asking for an earlier date, Mr Wharton told the judge that the affidavit sworn by Mr Horace Bailey, Permanent Secretary, Central Administrative Services of Tobago, and Mr Desmond Dipp was served only a day before and not yet filed, even though time for filing expired on April 6, 1983.

A further extension of time for filing affidavit was granted to the Attorney General and agreement by both sides the hearing adjourned to October 17.

Complaint of Government Spending

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly, under its development programme for sports for 1983, asked for \$15 million. In Budget discussions with the Ministry of Finance, this figure was slashed to \$2 million.

In further talks with the Minister of Finance before the national budget was presented to parliament, the figure was further reduced to \$1.2 million. And it was this amount which Parliament eventually passed for the development of sports in Tobago.

"But up to today, we have not had a penny of this amount," com-

plained Assemblyman George Archer, who assists the Secretary for Sports and Culture, Dr. J.D. Elder.

"Can you imagine we are now almost in the third quarter of the year and not a penny of that \$1.2 million has been released by the Ministry of Finance?" he asked.

Mr. Archer was speaking during debate on the Assembly's \$553.7 million 1984 expenditure budget which was passed and has been submitted to the Minister of Finance.

It was another example — classic example, according to Mr. Archer — of the battle which the Assembly has been having with the Government over the release of

money appropriated by Parliament.

Speaker after speaker, on the Democratic Action Congress-controlled side of the Assembly, complained "illegal" withholding of funds by the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Archer, as his colleagues had done, accused Government of deliberately withholding funds to frustrate the Assembly's efforts to improve Tobago.

In its 1984 Development Programme, the Assembly has now asked for a little over \$12 million for sports. But this figure is to be the subject of discussions, like the rest of the budget, between the Finance Ministry and the Assembly.

Pride of place in the programme for sports, according to Mr. Archer, is the proposed \$69 million Tobago Regional Recreation Ground which is to occupy 37 acres at Lowlands not too far from Crown Point Airport.

It is a project for which the Assembly cannot, and is not, taking credit. For it was conceived by the Ministry of Community Development back in 1979, in the days of the Tobago County Council, before the advent of the Assembly in September, 1980.

It would be Tobago's first and only sports complex.

Mr. Archer said even though the

project was conceived by Government, now that the Assembly had taken over responsibility for sports, it was finding it impossible to get the project financed.

Selwyn Vidal and Associates, the company which designed the complex, had not even been paid by Government for work done more than two years ago. The amount involved was \$900,000, and repeated requests by the Assembly for the release of that money was met with indifference, he said.

Mr. Archer said a note on the matter had been sent to Cabinet.

A TOKEN \$3M

But the Assembly is pushing ahead with plans for the Lowlands Complex, and in its 1984 Budget, has included a token \$3 million for a start.

The lands had to be acquired from the estate owners. The parcel required has already been isolated from the rest of the estate by construction of the Claude Noel Highway.

Mr. Archer added that the only thing approaching a "national" sports complex in Tobago is the Shaw Park facility. "But even here, the Assembly has been frustrated in its plans to develop this facility."

Funds for Community Centers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 12 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

CABINET has released \$195,000 under the Tobago House of Assembly 1983 Development Programme for work on community centres on the island.

Disclosing this yesterday, Dr. J.D. Elder, the assembly's secretary for education and community development, said that while the release is welcome, it has come "quite late and at a time when the rainy weather is likely to interfere with the planned work."

Dr. Elder pointed out that six months of the year have passed and after repeated requests, the money has only now been released by the government. "Better late than never, I suppose," he added philosophically.

Late release of funds has been one of the repeated complaints by the assembly. Only recently during the presentation of the assembly's 1983 Budget, Assemblyman George Archer said that not a penny of the

\$1.2 million parliamentary allocation for the development of sports had yet been released.

The money now released, explained Dr. Elder, will be spent on the construction and completion of community centres at Lambeau — \$70,000 and Castara — \$35,000.

Improvement works are also to be carried out at the centres at a cost of \$14,000 — Belle Garden (\$24,000) and at Speyside (\$36,000).

In addition, \$20,000 has to be provided for the improvement of the security at a number of centres, said Dr. Elder. This involved, he said, the erection of walls around the centres. He said that vandalism and petty theft have been plaguing several centres and the need for improved security which includes the provision of guards was essential.

Requests for the release of funds for work on centres at Patience Hill G/wood and Pembroke have not been granted, said Dr. Elder.

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:
TOBAGO is one of the most richly endowed islands in the world declared Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, chairman of the House of Assembly last Friday when he opened a two-day conference on the environment at the Crown Reef Hotel in Tobago.

And he made it clear that he was not speaking only in terms of things aesthetic. Tobago is really beautiful, he declared, as the theme of the conference announced.

But, said Mr. Robinson, with the declaration of a 200-mile economic zone by the Government, Tobago "is now one of the most richly endowed parts of the world."

He was speaking, he said, of its off-shore natural gas resources and "petroleum, hopefully in the future."

Mr. Robinson explained that the conference was the second in a series planned by the House of Assembly within the framework of its ten-year-Development Plan which had been unanimously approved by the Assembly.

RAPID DETERIORATION

The first, he explained, was on Tourism at which, it was agreed, that the next should be on the environment, which played such an important part in the development of tourism.

He recalled, too, that the assembly had held a seminar on sea-sand mining in the island since there had been rapid deterioration of the beaches as a result of this activity.

"Beautiful Tobago... our environmental heritage," as the conference was titled, evoked very deep sentiments among not only Tobagonians

but all those who visited Tobago, said Mr. Robinson.

Tobago, he said, shared the world-wide concern, as manifested by several conferences organised by the United Nations, about the need to protect the biosphere ... that whole environment the universe which sustains life ... since upon its protection and conservation depended life now and in the future.

He said that he was pleased to note that at the recent Caricom Head of Government Conference, at least one head had stressed the need for conservation.

He said that he had seen a film in the United States on the origin, development and the treatment of the environment in the Caribbean and was so impressed that he has been making efforts to secure a copy for showing on television locally.

It had depicted quite strikingly the destruction which could be and is being caused to the environment of the area through greed for ready and quick profit.

It was clear, said Mr. Robinson, that governments throughout the region, must plan strategies which while utilising the natural resources of their countries, do not destroy them.

Plans must be devised, he said, for the use of natural resources in such a way that the environment will be enhanced for the benefit of all mankind.

"Hopefully, these destructive powers would not artificially destroy what nature has sustained for so long," he declared. And, here, he explained, he was referring specifically to the "haunting spectacle or nuclear power."

"We must preserve what we have; we must intelligently use what we have," he declared, adding that this demanded "a concerted national effort."

UNIONS, GOVERNMENT CONTINUE EFFORTS IN AREA OF EMPLOYMENT

Save-Jobs Appeal

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 7 Jul 83 p 7

[Text]

SAN FERNANDO:
MINISTER OF LABOUR,
 Social Security and Co-Operatives Errol Mahabir has been asked by the Contractors and General Workers Trade Union to save the jobs of some 300 workers employed with the contracting firm of Emile Elias and Company Limited.

The union has asked the minister, by letter dated July 1 to look into the matter with a view to, not only saving the jobs of the workers but also to prevent further retrenchment in the country.

Mr Owen Hinds, president general, told the minister in the letter the firm informed the union recently that because of the lack of further contracts, it will be laying off its workers from tomorrow.

The union was told that the uneconomic operations of the firm will lead to retrenchment on a phased basis.

Mr. Hinds drew to the minister's attention a complaint by the firm of the proposed awarding of a multi-million housing contract to a South Korean firm by Government.

"If that is true then we must also protest any move by government to bring in foreigners to do work which could be done by local contracting firms" Mr Hinds told the minister.

Impact of Food Imports

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 11 Jul 83 p 15

[Text]

THE IMPORTATION of canned vegetables and beans and the Jamaican two-tiered system are causing problems for Catelli Trinidad Limited which finds itself with a glut of some 91,000 cases of peas and mixed vegetables.

According to the Communications Workers' Union, this is the situation which the company says is the cause for decision to make 16 workers redundant as from June 27 with a further 40 to follow.

The union was informed by the company, that it was experiencing serious problems with the sales of canned vegetables and beans with 91,000 cases in its warehouse be-

cause of contraction of the local and regional markets.

The company told the union the reason for this was the granting of import licences to local distributors for products it was already manufacturing. In 1982, the company said, 150,000 cases of canned beans and vegetables were imported and from January to April of this year 60,000 cases were imported duty free from Santo Domingo.

Because of cheaper production costs and government subsidies, the company told the union, the goods were being sold at lower prices than those manufactured locally.

The company said that the situation was further aggravated by the fact that it could no longer ne-

trate the Jamaican market because of the country's two tiered system.

According to the union, this situation may be used as "a veil for unwarranted retrenchment" by some employers, but since there is the possibility that it may indeed have a negative effect on the job security for nationals they have called for it to have the urgent attention of the authorities.

Workers March

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Opposition leader Basdeo Panday yesterday warned State-owned Caroni (1975) Limited that the hundreds of seasonal and temporary sugar workers laid off after the 1983 crop would continue to demonstrate every Thursday until they were employed.

Mr Panday, President General of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers' Trade Union, gave the warning as he addressed a midday demonstration in front of the company's Brechin Castle factory.

The placard-bearing workers pledged full support to the union in the struggle to have the company offer them work in the wet season.

Caroni said that the company was not under any obligation to offer continued employment to the seasonal and temporary workers after the crop. Added to that, the company had no money said an official.

Mr Panday said the company perhaps had no legal obligation to offer employment but it had a moral and economic obligation to the workers to provide them continued employment.

In his address to the workers, men and women, Mr Panday said: "We are tired of writing letters to the various Government departments in connection with the matter."

Access Roads

The time had come for action and called on the workers to stage a demonstration, from in front of the factory to the company's main office, then to Sevilla House and back. His call was readily answered.

Mr Panday said that the company laid off 2,000 seasonal and temporary workers.

He felt Caroni could use its idle machinery to provide agricultural access roads for canefarmers; to assist the farmers by ploughing their lands in the area of preventing flooding.

Opposition to Workers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

AN OPPOSITION Senator said yesterday that he did not want any South Koreans coming into this country to construct houses. According to Senator Lincoln Myers, the Korean's "capacity for corruption and bribery is so great, I want to warn the Minister (Housing and Resettlement Minister Wendell Mottley) that I don't want a single Korean here."

Senator Myers told the Senate that the Koreans, who according to reports are to be brought here to construct houses for the National Housing Authority (NHA) "are not going to provide the kind of housing we want" and he (Minister Mottley) knows it.

A group of Korean businessmen and that country's equivalent of the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) were responsible in 1966 for undermining the United States Government, he charged.

He said he understood that the Housing Minister was attempting to bring Koreans here at a time when "unemployment is rising and foreign reserves are falling."

Senator Myers was speaking on a Bill entitled an Act to amend the Land Tenants (Security of Tenure) Act, 1981.

He said Government should trust people more and be accountable whether dealing with the Iron and Steel Company of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT), housing "or what have you."

He likened the speech and attitude of certain Government members as being consistent with that described in George Orwell's political satire "Nineteen Eighty-Four." When the Housing Minister introduced the Bill about six weeks ago, he spoke of it as being urgent and wanted it passed that particular day.

Tesoro Firing of Union Officers

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

TROUBLE IS brewing at Trinidad Tesoro Petroleum Company Limited following the dismissal of seven hourly-rated, weekly-paid workers including two branch officers of the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU).

Mr George Weekes, President General of OWTU, said yesterday that the matter was reported to the Minister of Labour who was expected to get in touch with the union and company to arrange a meeting. According to Mr Weekes, the company alleged misconduct and absenteeism.

All seven workers were employed in the marine operations division at Point Galeota. The two union officers dismissed: Narace Deokiesingh, Assistant Secretary and R. Ochoa, Shop Steward, both of the Palo Seco branch of the union.

The shop steward and branch officers of the Palo Seco branch of the OWTU met on Wednesday afternoon and discussed the matter then took a decision to stand by for positive action if the matter was not amicably resolved.

Mr Weekes expressed concern and surprise to learn that a company like Trinidad Tesoro "with which the union has very good industrial relations, has taken such a stand."

Company officials could not be contacted for comment.

OWTU Stand

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] The Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) is against any further concessions to Texaco Trinidad Incorporated in particular and has already made its position quite clear in a memorandum to the Government Inter-Ministerial Committee.

Asked to comment on the Government's decision to reduce the supplemental petroleum tax on oil companies operating in this country from 35 per cent to 15 per cent, Mr George Weekes, President-General of the OWTU, said any further tax concessions would eventually result in greater unemployment and have adverse effects on the economy of the country since development projects would be affected due to the lack of substantial amounts of revenue as a result of the tax reduction.

He said the OWTU would study the Government's and make a statement shortly.

Texaco stated sometime ago that any decline in land production would further reduce the already low level at which the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery was operating and that decline could only be arrested by further drilling and by well work overs and for this activity to be economical, it required a substantial reduction in the supplemental petroleum tax on these operations.

Labor Minister's Speech

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 21 Jul 83 p 1

[Article by Norris Solomon]

[Text]

LABOUR Minister Errol Mahabir has called on trade unions and employers to give priority to job security and productivity in their bargaining for industrial agreements.

Mr Mahabir said that if the country was to take a serious effort to contain costs and prices, there was no option but to understand and accept that the level of wage settlements of the past seven years cannot be maintained. Wages, salaries, prices and profits must be scrutinized, he said.

He was speaking at the meeting of the Southern Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce at the Gulf City Auditorium, La Romain, last night.

After giving what was a "sectoral overview of the economy" touching on all aspects of national development Minister of Labour, Social Security and Co-operatives Mr Mahabir said: "It is just not possible for any one section of the community to seek to increase its real income levels without having adverse consequences for the other sectors of the economy."

"Wage and salary levels must be brought under scrutiny; they in fact comprise the largest component of the national income. Prices and profits must also be scrutinized."

The Minister said: "For the present and immediate future, job security and productivity bargaining must be at the forefront in the collective bargaining process. This maxim must guide both trade unions and employers."

Mr Mahabir said the petroleum industry was the sector most severely affected by the economic crisis.

TANGIBLE ACTION

"Our survival clearly rests upon a much advanced pace of economic diversification which immediately brings into focus our industrialisation process and efforts," he said.

He outlined eight principal elements for shaping the medium and long-term future development and told the businessmen of obligations they should accept, not only verbally, but by tangible action.

Some of the principal elements for the medium and long-term development as outlined by Mr Mahabir:

- * Enlarge the size and scope of the petroleum industry and through conservation and other measures, extend its economic life.

- * Create an additional growth pole in the economy with emphasis on the production of new raw materials for export and for downstream manufacturing, fabrication and finishing.

- Improve national food security, inter alia, through converting to alternative uses suitable agricultural lands which are now utilised uneconomically in the production of export crops.

- Expand the services sector, particularly those such as finance, consultancy and tourism, which can service local industry and at the same time generate new exports.

- Increase the technological capability of the population through installing new facilities for technolog-

ical and technical training and for applied research and development.

- Invite the participation of private and official foreign capital in meaningful bilateral or tripartite partnerships in the country to develop new production, particularly for export.

- Mobilise the participation of a widening section of the population in the ownership of national assets and in taking decisions which affect the future shape and performance of the economy.

SUSTAIN DEMOCRACY

- Do all these things while adhering to the highest traditions of the democratic system including, in particular, safeguarding the integrity of all the institutions which preserve and sustain parliamentary democracy.

In pursuit of the transformation strategy, the country had to keep developments in the international market-place under constant surveillance, not only in production, but in technology development, he said.

He told the businessmen that if they agreed that the principal elements of the transformation strategy would carry the population towards the level of living to which they could realistically aspire, then as members of a responsible and responsive body they had to accept the inherent obligations.

THE OBLIGATIONS

Three of the obligations, he said, were:

- Participate constructively in the management of the adjustment period now upon us so as to minimise conflicts and divisiveness.

- Recognise and accept an obligation to go out and mobilise the investments to increase employment and incomes in the country, particularly during this period when the capacity of the public sector to sustain real demand will be impaired.

- Work alongside other private and public bodies to break down the barriers which other countries place against us and which reduce the effectiveness of the effort which we, as a people, seek to mount.

The Minister said that the challenge was not merely to indicate verbal acceptance; it was to demonstrate the acceptancy by the tangible action which "each of us is prepared to take in due recognition of the fact that all of us, not only the Government, bear responsibility for national development and change."

Government Mr Mahabir explained, may well have to re-examine the extent to which the resources available to it allow it to assume, in the short term, the dominant role in bringing to fruition some of the very large investments required to monetise the country's natural gas resources.

TOBAGO HOLDS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Destruction of Beaches

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 14 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

SAND MINING is destroying the beaches in Tobago. So serious has the problem become, that the Institute of Marine Affairs has recommended that such mining at Turtle Beach be prohibited for two years.

The problem, according to Ms. Cicely Georges of the Geological Laboratory of the Institute, has arisen because of the shortage of aggregate for the construction industry in Tobago.

In a paper presented at a two-day conference on the Tobago Environment held on July 8 and 9 at the Crown Reef Hotel, Ms Georges explained that "within the last two to three years, the demand for this commodity (aggregate) has far outstripped the island's ability to produce it.

"Since Tobago's beaches especially those on the south coast, are easily accessible and apparently have unlimited quantities of sand, it is natural that beaches would become one of the island's sources of aggregate," she said.

Ms. Georges explained that her paper was a brief summary of two and a half year project which monitored a beach profile at Turtle Beach at Grest Courland Bay, Tobago.

The 1,700-metre long beach supports, two industries — tourism and fishing — without any apparent detrimental effect to the environment, she noted.

"However, during the last quarter of 1980, beach sand mining, using overloaders and trucks, became a major industry on the beach and its impact has been obvious and apparently harmful."

A beach, she explained, like most natural en-

SCARBOROUGH:

vironments, is constantly struggling to achieve an equilibrium between all the forces (wind, waves, currents, tides and man) acting upon it.

The equilibrium is maintained by nature's own forces, the waves and currents, removing and replenishing the sand on the beaches.

"At Turtle Beach, however, this equilibrium has been interfered with by sand-mining, and after two years of monitoring, it has been determined that though there is still a cyclic process of removal and replenishment, the net loss of sediment from the system has been substantial," she said.

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

ENFORCING THE law as it relates to the environment has been urged by the Environmental Club Crusoe. If the law had been properly enforced, said the club, "many of the unsightly and unsanitary structures which have been mushrooming in and around Scarborough", would have been removed.

The club's views were expressed in a paper presented by Mr. George Stanley Beard, at a conference on the environment held by the Tobago House of Assembly on July 8 and 9 at the Crown Reef Hotel.

Mr. Beard pointed out that at the moment there are no less than seven pieces of legislation "which, if properly effected and adhered to, can greatly contribute to the environmental enhancement of Tobago".

These he listed as the Slum Clearance Act, the Conservation of Wildlife Act, the Marine Area (Preservation and Enhancement) Act, the Water Conservation Act, the Anti-Litter Act, the Botanical Gardens Act and the Town and Country Planning Act.

"It appears however that the lack of manpower, illegal practices and much politicking prevent justice from prevailing", he said.

River-bed mining, he said, as it affects the Delaford-Louis Dor River can be effectively dealt with under the Water Conservation Act and the Town and Country Act.

The management of the Buccoo Reef and other marine restricted areas fall directly under the Marine Area Act, said Mr. Beard.

"The problem of ad hoc or make-shift camping sites has been on the increase, especially during long weekends and during the summer and easter vacation periods, yet there are provisions in the Town and Country Planning Act and the Slum Clearance Act which can effectively remedy this illegal practice", said the environmentalist.

But he stressed that public participation is extremely necessary in the implementation and enforcement of policies and decisions "since, political sensitivity and devious action on the parts of independent agencies or the economically concerned public have in numerous ways stood in the path of the effective implementation of these policies".

"The role of community participation may therefore be likened to one of the guards whose duty and responsibility it is to guard the guards", said Mr. Beard.

Club Crusoe has recommended "the immediate establishment of one regulatory agency with the express responsibility of environmental planning, development and enhancement".

It has also called for a policy of positive encouragement to interested citizens and the public to work along with the planning division and the State in the development and effecting policies.

The club, through Mr. Beard, has recommended the launching of a public education programme and the establishment of a permanent Advisory Committee on the Environment with members drawn from a wide base, possessing several viewpoints.

"Above all, this advisory committee should not be allowed to become an elitist and insular board, remote from the rest of the community", it said.

Conference Recommendations

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Jul 83 p 6

[Text]

SCARBOROUGH:

THE TOBAGO House of Assembly should be the single body responsible for environmental planning in Tobago.

This is one of 11 recommendations and conclusions agreed upon by the Conference on the Environment hosted by the Assembly at the Crown Reef Hotel.

The recommendations which were released yesterday by assembly chairman, Mr A.N.R Robinson, were reached at working sessions of the conference which considered a number of papers laid before it.

The conference recommended that an advisory committee to the assembly be set up comprising various agencies to assist in the planning and formulation of environmental policies.

It also recommended that a data bank for all research data, information, publications and expertise on matters relating to the island of Tobago be established.

All legislation dealing with the Tobago environment should be collated, reviewed and recommendations laid for increased receptiveness, decided the conference.

It recommended also that steps

be taken to enforce existing environmental laws and urged a more effective use of the media to ensure the involvement of the community and the education of the public in matters of environment.

Public participation it said, was necessary in the formulation and implementation of all environmental laws.

During the conference, a representative of the Institute of Marine Affairs had raised the question of pollution to Tobago waters from activities of neighbouring countries, and Venezuela was mentioned in this context.

The conference, therefore, recommended that "steps should be taken through the appropriate channels to initiate dialogue with neighbouring countries on possible repercussions of domestic activities on the Tobago environment and the region as a whole."

The conference suggested that proposals be recommended for the establishment of a park and wildlife system in the island and there be a programme of identification, restoration and preservation of historical sites and relics, monuments, beauty spots and places of interest.

CSO: 5000/7598

NETHERLANDS AMBASSADOR SEES MARKET FOR FOOD EXPORTS

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Jun 83 p 7

[Text] San Fernando: Once Holland could get a firm commitment of a guaranteed supply of agricultural products, Trinidad and Tobago would be able to find a ready market in that country.

So said, Mr Eldred G. Maduro, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Netherlands.

Mr Maduro and Mr Paul W.A. Schellekens, First Secretary, paid a courtesy call yesterday morning on Mr Deen Saidwan, president of the South Trinidad Chamber of Industry and Commerce and members at the chamber's office, Cross Crossing, San Fernando.

Asked about whether the possibility exists for Trinidad and Tobago to sell agricultural products in Holland, Mr Maduro said that the Netherlands did substantial trade last year with this country when it bought \$250 million, mainly in oil products. Holland sold about \$70 million mainly dairy and food products to this country.

He believed that trade could be increased in the area of agriculture once Holland could get a continuous guaranteed supply with the right price for its winter season.

Mr Shellekens pointed out that the price of a mango in the Holland supermarkets was cheaper than the price in Trinidad.

Mr Maduro mentioned also that since 1980 Holland sold about 10 small boats to various authorities in this country.

On the question of steel products, he said that Holland was self-sufficient in steel since that country has one of the largest and most efficient steel mills in the world--the Hooghovens.

The Iron and Steel Mill of Trinidad and Tobago (ISCOTT) would not be able to sell its products to Holland but Mr Maduro pointed out that Dutch experts had given advice on the construction of ISCOTT.

CSO: 3298/802

WATER PROBLEM REACHING CRISIS POINT; CITIZENS IRATE

Public Action in Diego Martin

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] A serious crisis exists in many parts of the heavily populated Diego Martin area, including Diamond Vale. For weeks now there has been no water except for a few hours late at night when a mere trickle drips through the taps.

Angry residents told the SUNDAY GUARDIAN yesterday that unless something is done to relieve the situation they may be forced to take some drastic action as the pressure under which they were now living could not continue.

A resident told the SUNDAY GUARDIAN that on Wednesday night last, in the Diamond Vale area, two men were seen trying to break open a fire hydrant to fill buckets.

Residents in Diego Martin said they now have to get up in the middle of the night to get their household chores done. A housewife, whose family leaves the area at 6.30 a.m. to get to work in Port-of-Spain said she gets up every night at midnight to collect water either to wash or for the family's needs the following day.

Angry residents told the SUNDAY GUARDIAN that every call to the consumer division of the Water and Sewerage Authority at St. Joseph or to the district WASA office in Diego Martin gets a different reason for the crisis.

WASA's explanations were listed as: (1) burnt-out motor at Four Roads; (2) repairs to mains; (3) lack of electricity; (4) no drivers to go out and turn on the stopcocks; (5) low water pressure; (6) plenty of water but inability to get it to the consumer; (7) too much rain; (8) no maintenance of equipment; (9) worker attitudes.

In the meantime residents charged that WASA has been sending out truck-borne water to specially selected houses in the area including those of one of its engineers and other employees. Only houses with tanks are getting water and residents said that repeated requests to WASA to get supplies get no response at all, unless your name is on the "special list."

Residents charged that some people had been paying to get water delivered.

Many residents have had to install tanks at a cost of between \$3,000 and \$4,000 but one family with three tanks is still waterless as no water flows through the taps day or night.

The Fire Services Department has been trying to help and was out in the Diamond Vale area last week filling a few tanks. But a Fire Services spokesman said that while it was their duty to help in a crisis, water distribution was not their job and their absence from the Four Roads Fire Station puts the entire area at risk in the event of fire.

Yesterday the SUNDAY GUARDIAN tried to contact the consumer division at WASA's St. Joseph office, which is supposed to offer a 24-hour service, but there was no reply to the 662-5018 number. The Diego district office, number 637-3142, seemed to be busy for the entire day.

In addition to the water crisis yesterday, the Diego Martin area suffered prolonged periods of electricity cuts. According to reports, the power failure affected several areas of the city and surrounding districts.

GUARDIAN Editorial

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 83 p 6

[Editorial: "Excuses, Excuses, Excuses, Excuses"]

[Text]

THE water supply in the country has reached crisis proportions. Unless something is done immediately about it, there is no telling what may happen.

The majority of the citizens of this country are responsible persons, we suggest, and certainly are, in any case, more responsible than those DEWD workers who recently blocked the Priority Route in protest against rumoured retrenchment.

But the patience of the country is wearing out where its water supply is concerned and the Government would do well to remember that it was a dispute over water which caused one of the worst riots in the history of this country in 1903.

Water is a basic, very basic commodity and without it the country has been suffering almost beyond human endurance.

The situation has become so oppressive, so irreversible, that recently two men were observed trying to open a fire hydrant in a Diego Martin suburb where no water had flowed through the taps for weeks. That is an ominous signal of the desperation that now grips many thousands of unwashed, thirsty, citizens of this country.

If the situation becomes even more intolerable, WASA, not the people, ought to be held fully responsible for the consequences that may then ensue.

Over the years WASA has grown progressively worse, perhaps intentionally so.

TOTAL FAILURE

Over the years WASA has failed dismally to provide the country with the sort of water supply it has been mandated to provide, has been amply funded to provide, and even overstaffed to provide.

Over the years, too, despite promises and platitudes, excuses and evasions, spiralling pay for workers, and musical chairs for directorates, the situation has merely grown progressively and vividly worse.

Over this totally disgraceful situation a huge WASA administration presides. Its board, its management structure, its thousands of workers and its tank operators who deliver water to the chosen few either do not care or cannot perform and so the vast majority of taxpayers, ratepayers, and citizens generally have never received the supply they are entitled to.

In recent months the network of suburbs comprising Diego Martin-Petit Valley-Carenage have joined the rest of the suffering country.

Those citizens who reach WASA by still functioning telephones or in person after waiting up for long night hours to snatch trickles of the precious fluid for their homes and plead for information and relief receive as many varied replies as can be found in a Common Entrance answer sheet. Every imaginable reason except WASA's own unconscionable fault is blamed.

In scores of communities water lines are only buried ornaments, private and public water tanks have rusted away, polluted streams have had to be resorted to by mankind, animals, and business and agricultural enterprises, and public health left to hang by a thin providential thread.

The chaos, the misery and the wretched failure have produced one outstanding thing. In the words of the late Prime Minister of this country, "the truckborne water system (is) the biggest source of corruption in the country."

His hyperbole can be forgiven, of course, in the light of later revelations about corruption in high places but the exasperating nonsense that passes for WASA's system of water supply must rank high among those things which make existence in what should be a blessed country, hellish for many people.

Petty tyranny by WASA turncock men (who wander off their jobs at will or impudently absent themselves totally or indiscriminately and with impunity turn off the devices), "bobol" involving water truck personnel and some so-called exemplars of the society, whimsical segregation of persons entitled "by contact" to water from those whose lowly station or political creed condemns them to thirst, all form part of the disgusting real-life drama.

WORSE AND WORSE

The undeniable truth is that WASA has proved itself over

and over to be completely unable to satisfy the demand of consumers and its general competence is even lower now than the level of early 1982 at which time its spokesmen were informing the National Consultation on Productivity that the golden age would dawn in the late 1980s.

Its promise mentioned that the time-consuming and fund-exhausting job of exploring, testing, and putting into pilot schemes, sites that may prove to be productive enough to be developed as permanent sources of water supply, could not be rendered less prohibitive because of the great need to assemble all the indispensable factors which themselves were in scarce supply.

The trouble with this kind of reasoning is, of course, that instead of things getting any better they are certainly getting worse. Communities that once thought themselves immune, as did Diego Martin, now find themselves deep in agony alongside those communities where pipeborne water has never seen the light of day.

INCOMPETENCE

Something just has to be done to relieve the pressure building up all over the country because of the lack of water.

Plainly, if WASA's present hierarchy cannot do any better within a short time, they ought to resign en bloc and give way to other people who may have the vision, skill, and enthusiasm to produce enough water for all of us.

How much longer will the Government sit by and accept at shamefaced value the lame excuses that WASA continues to give.

It is not only disgraceful, it is dangerous idiocy when citizens are made to depend upon the Fire Services or the Defence Force personnel for water.

Tying up fire servicemen and equipment for days must put at costly and unnecessary risk the homes of citizens. Worse of all WASA seems to be only too willing to rely on the fire services.

The whole situation is, frankly, unacceptable.

It is time that WASA be forced to do its work or hand it over to other hands, to someone who will deliver the water to the people regularly and in abundance.

All the people want is an adequate and reliable water supply not a string of tired excuses to cover up incompetence, poor maintenance, poor ability to organise, control, and direct staff, and thus to get on with the job of providing the kind of water supply to which the people's needs and their standard of living demand.

ONR WILL MOVE TO CREATE MORE TV, RADIO STATIONS

Campaign Commitment

Port-of-Spain SUNDAY GUARDIAN in English 17 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

WIN, lose or draw, the Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) is going to fight for two more nation-wide television stations plus a Tobago radio station after the local government elections.

A party source yesterday said that this will be one of the ONR's commitments which will be announced officially at the party's Queen's Hall elections convention today.

He said that the battle will be taken to the highest courts if necessary because freedom of information is presently denied citizens of the country and that the ruling People's National Movement, which owns the sole television station and one of the nation's two radio broadcasting companies, is using the electronic media for propaganda at a time when the people need to know what is really going on in the country.

The source disclosed that at today's convention, carded to begin at 9 a.m., the ONR will announce a full slate of candidates for the urban areas of Port-of-Spain, San Fernando and the boroughs of Arima and Point Fortin.

There will be no three-cornered fights, as the ONR and other members of the National Alliance had reached agreements over the August 8 polling fight against the PNM, he said.

In the vital Port-of-Spain constituency, three well-known figures will be among the 12 gearing for battle with the PNM which has dropped Mayor George Neehall in the wake on what the source described as the most ruinous reign of any mayor of Port-of-Spain.

HIGH PRIORITY

The three names tipped are Mr. J.D. Ramjohn, of the National Land Tenants and Ratepayers Association, barrister Mr. Stanley John and former national table tennis champion Mr. Winston "Reds" Mulligan.

Will former Fatima College principal, Mr. Clive Pantin, be contesting? The source did not confirm this but it is generally expected that

Mr. Pantin will be in the fray because of his high profile among ONR supporters in the Woodbrook area.

The ONR, which is the Alliance together with the United Labour Front (ULF), the Democratic Action Congress — which already controls the Tobago House of Assembly — and the Tapia Movement, expects a larger turnout than the 1980 local government poll which carried the PNM overwhelmingly into what is now left of municipal power.

The party failed to win a single seat in the 1981 general elections, although a large proportion of voters — over 91,000 — cast ballots in its favour in that contest.

The ONR source said that DAC chairman, Mr. A.N.R. Robinson, had not yet officially arrived at an agreement over the issue of a radio station based in Tobago but there is every reason for his support for the move.

This year was designated International Communications Year by the Geneva Conference of the International Press Service (IPS), said the ONR official.

But the Government of Trinidad and Tobago chose to ignore this mainly because the IPS stated that one of the objectives of the year was easier access to government controlled sources of information.

GOVT MONOPOLY

The Government's accredited Ambassador to Geneva, Mr. Wilfred Naimool, must have been aware of the importance of the IPS resolution, said the ONR source, yet the Government is denying licences for more local television stations, more independent news coverage, because it wants to continue its monopoly.

At today's convention, political leader of the ONR, Mr. Karl Hudson-Phillips, will give the feature address and the party's manifesto for the elections will be presented by deputy political leader, Mr. Surujrattan Rambachan.

Other speakers will be party organiser Mr. Ferdi Ferreira and Mr. Mervyn Assam, who will speak on the importance of local government elections.

Meanwhile, the ONR will present its plan for the beautification of Port-of-Spain and the boroughs at a public meeting at Adam Smith Square, Woodbrook, tonight beginning at 7.30.

The ONR plan for the city includes the beautifying and proper maintenance of the Queen's Park Savannah; a proper quality re-housing of the vendors; resurfacing of streets; the maintenance and upgrading of markets; the up-keep of cemeteries, rehabilitation of parks with improved playing facilities for children and the introduction of public swimming pools; drug guidance centres for youngsters; a new traffic plan to take care of congestion; introduction of new zoning laws and a modern concert hall theatre to accommodate dance, drama, steelband and folklore.

Speakers will include Mr. Hudson-Phillips, Mr. Mervyn Assam and Mr. Ferdi Ferreira. The meeting will be chaired by Mr. Pantin.

Action Plans

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 18 Jul 83 p 1

[Text] Organisation for National Reconstruction (ONR) has drafted a memorandum of articles aimed at establishing a television and radio station to be called Voice of the People. This was stated by Mr Karl Hudson-Phillips, political leader at the party's Local Government elections convention yesterday.

Mr Hudson-Phillips said it was intended to float a public company of \$1 shares, and not allow any individual to hold more than five percent. Authorised capital proposed was \$1 million, and proposal was for the company to be based in Port of Spain, with studios in San Fernando and Tobago.

The ONR leader said there was an application for a southern TV station since 1976, and there was no positive response yet from Government.

The technical question of having a radio or TV station posed no problem, because there were several free channels, and with the increase in technology, several people in Trinidad had put up new disc antennas, and were getting foreign channels.

There was no technical reason why Government had refused additional television and radio stations.

He referred to a recent judgment of the courts relating to the KC confectionary case, where the ruling as Government could not refuse to give a licence without good reason.

If Government refused to grant the television and radio licence, they would take them to court claiming that it was a breach of fundamental rights.

Mr Hudson-Phillips also explained that the most serious constraint of the party was a financial one. This was seriously limiting activity and organisation at the local and national levels. "Each one of us, therefore, has a financial responsibility to ensure the financial viability of the ONR," he said.

It must be done in a legal and correct way, he said, and it was an absolute requirement.

He described the candidates put forward by the ONR for the election as a state of "very fine candidates, in keeping with the high standards of representation which we think our country deserves."

CSO: 3298/800

'PANTHER' GANG INVASION OF SCHOOL SPARKS SECURITY DEBATE

Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 2 Jul 83 p 1

[Text]

THE PANTHER gang may cause stoppage of classes at the Tranquillity Government Secondary School if the Ministry of Education and Culture does not act swiftly to provide proper security for the safety of the teachers.

Just after lunch time yesterday, members of the gang entered the school and battled with the Principal, Mr. Cyril Stewart, who attempted to put them out of the compound.

One teacher reported that were it not for Mr. Stewart's "pugilistic abilities" he might have been a patient at hospital now.

As a result of this, the teachers have called a meeting at the school room on Monday to discuss what course of action they should adopt if Government does not provide adequate security for teachers.

The teachers have invited the Port-of-Spain branch executive and the Industrial Relations Commit-

tee of the Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association to attend this meeting on Monday to be held at 9 a.m.

A spokesman for the teachers said that only two weeks ago prediction of the reign of terror by the Panthers appeared in one of the weeklies, and it came to pass yesterday.

The teachers have blamed the situation on the inaction of the Ministry of Education and Culture

on the matter of security in schools.

The spokesman said the security staff on the compound were working under severe constraints in that they were hopelessly understaffed, and also not precepted thereby causing a certain measure of uncertainty as to their role in apprehensions.

The whole business of security was beyond the capacity of that body which was ill-equipped and ill-prepared, the spokesman said.

CSO: 3298/802

BRIEFS

SUGAR CROP WARNING--San Fernando--Opposition leader Basdeo Panday, who is president general of All Trinidad Sugar and General Workers Trade Union, believes that if Caroni Limited continues to allow the cane fields to remain in an abandoned condition there will be a disastrous sugar crop next year. Mr Panday said yesterday that the company should move expeditiously, especially in the current period, to employ cultivation workers to clean the fields and allow the canes to grow in a healthy condition. He said that as a State-owned company, Caroni should set the example and instead of retrenching workers, it's company should find employment for the "poor sugar workers who have given dedicated service over the years to the industry." He said that the hundreds of sugar workers both temporary and seasonal, who have been laid off since the 1983 crop closed, will continue their demonstrations tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 12 noon at Brechin Castle, calling for employment. The company's roads are deteriorating, flooding is taking place, yet Caroni is doing nothing about the situation, claimed the union leader. Employ the sugar workers and use the millions of dollars worth of machinery and equipment in those areas, he advised the company. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 20 Jul 83 p 7]

VILLAGE COUNCILS ASSOCIATION--A.Z. Pascall has been re-elected president of the Association of Village and Community Councils, at the association's annual general meeting. In the elections which took place last Sunday at the St. Ann's Community Workshop, Paras Ramoutar, president of the Caparo Village Council and public relations officer of the Caroni Association of Village and Community Councils, was elected as the new public relations officer. Following are the officers for the new term: A.Z. Pascall, president; Andrew Bastein, and M. Richard, vice-presidents; A. Beckles, secretary; Leo Noel and Joyce Williams, asst. secretaries; C.H. John, treasurer; M. Mitchell, Kelshall Bennett and Mrs. Richardson, trustees; Paras Ramoutar, public relations officer; A.G. Persad and Clive Spence, auditors. Mr Boysie Nicholas is chairman of the membership and general purposes committee, while Mr. O.T. Paul is chairman of the community centre and improvement committee. In an address, Mr Pascall pointed out that the village council movement was at the "crossroads of significance and actions." He called upon all the unit and branch groups "to work for a better and stronger village council movement in Trinidad and Tobago and that we must be prepared for any new responsibilities and powers." He also said that plans were on the drawing board for the establishment of a Village Council Foundation Fund to work with unit groups to assist in disaster problems. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 8 Jul 83 p 6]